

U.N. seeks to revive Gulf talks

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and Iraq have sent their foreign ministers to New York to resume post-war diplomatic contacts that have so far produced only a few meetings. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the chief mediator, managed to get Iran's Ali Akbar Velayati and Iraq's Tariq Aziz together in the same room in April, but not to persuade them to speak directly to each other. He will try again this week, hoping that a similar meeting last month by his special envoy, Jan Eliasson, may have laid the basis for a breakthrough in the stalemate. But Baghdad and Tehran seem still intent on stalling over basic issues including ownership of the Shatt Al Arab, the river that forms the southern section of their border. The Gulf war was halted by a U.N. Security Council ceasefire in August 1988 after nearly eight years of fighting in which, according to Western estimates, more than a million soldiers and civilians died. Peace talks promptly stalled. Tehran wants Iraqi troops withdrawn from an estimated 2,600 square kilometres of border territory they still hold.

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Badran reaffirms moves towards securing public freedoms

Seized passports to be returned; ban on travel, work to be lifted

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Muhsen Badran reaffirmed Sunday the government's intentions to take concrete steps towards securing public freedoms as well as freedoms to travel and work for all Jordanian citizens regardless of their political affiliations.

The premier also said the issue of martial law needs a very thorough study of its implications and its positive/negative aspects. "I wish I could cancel the martial law, but this issue has to be studied thoroughly and I want all you parliamentarians to share this study with me," Badran told the Lower House of Parliament, which met in regular session.

Badran stressed that the directives of His Majesty King Hussein to return all confiscated passports to their holders and release political detainees have been carried by the government.

"We have already released 48 political detainees. But I want to point out that political detainees are different from convicted political prisoners because the latter need a special royal pardon," Badran told Lower House representatives who pressed the issue

of public freedoms during the four-hour session.

The premier added that a "special committee to study the situation of convicted prisoners has already been established and this committee has not yet finished its study."

But the prime minister said the government would grant further amnesties to political prisoners as soon as the committee finishes a review of sentences passed on political activists.

Several deputies pressured Badran on the exact number of confiscated passports and the provisions which the government will make to ensure

these detainees are granted their right to return to their work and maintain their livelihood. Badran quoted an old Arab saying: "They ask when did we get to the palace, we say yesterday

afternoon."

He explained that his government did not yet have all the details on the situation but pointed out that the most important issue remains "that we are launching a new era which has to be appreciated."

The new era, he said, means "the launching of public freedoms, the uplifting of all injustice which we suffered from just as you did."

Badran said the current situation "is a result of accumulation of procedures over the years and it is impossible to erase all that had been done in seconds."

Badran, who took office Dec. 4, told Parliament: "There might be some people held under questioning, and I promise that I will look into their cases in light of the government's new policy of liberalisation

within the limits of the law."

He added that the release of confiscated passports was done in a manner which will ensure the minimum psychological and physical anguish.

"We gave all the passports to the passport department so as not to ask their holders to return to the security departments and to facilitate the renewal of these passports if they needed such a measure," he said.

The prime minister did not announce the number of confiscated passports and later said he did not know their exact numbers. Sources, however, maintain that more than 8,700 passports were being held.

Amman Deputy Ahmad Abbadi, a former police official, distributed a statement urging the House to form a committee charged with studying the situation of citizens barred from work, held in custody or deprived of passports for security reasons.

He also asked the General Intelligence Department to provide a list of all these citizens to the House.

Another letter addressed to the speaker of the Lower House, Sulaiman Arar, and signed by 37 deputies called for cancelling the military governor's decision to close down the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) in June 1986.

"We also call for closing down the government-appointed Union of Jordanian Writers and Authors," the memorandum said.

The deputies said that such a move

would "allow the JWA to resume its cultural and literary endeavours."

Deputy Fakhri Kawar handed in two memorandums to the speaker asking him to pose two questions to the government.

The first question dealt with a story which ran in a column in Al-Dustour daily and described the circumstances which led to the death of a 26-year-old man who walked into the hospital complaining of heart pains and died seven hours later for no explainable reasons.

Kawar asked: "What caused the death of 26-year-old Imad Yousef Aziz Hassan? Is there any reason to believe that his death was caused by negligence from the University Hospital or the specialised doctor? Have there been any preventive measures taken to ensure that such a case is not repeated?"

In his second memorandum to the speaker, Kawar asked that the following question be posed to the government: "Why did Sawt Al-Shaab daily dismiss a number of its editors, who are also members of the Journalists Association, as well as several of the workers in the newspaper? Is there any intention to reinstate them in their jobs? Or is this only a link in the chain of dismissals which over-whelmed newspapers in the past year? Will there be any measures to prevent arbitrary dismissals in our newspapers?"

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Waldegrave assails Israeli actions

NICOSIA (R) — A British government minister has denounced "Israel's daily arbitrary practices against the Palestinian people," the Oman News Agency reported Sunday. British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave assailed Israel earlier this year by calling for an end to its military occupation of Arab territories. The agency, received in Cyprus, also quoted Waldegrave as criticising the United States' attitude to the Palestinian problem saying Washington should deal with it more seriously. "We strongly denounce Israel's daily arbitrary practices against the Palestinian people in occupied Arab territory and are trying to persuade our allies, especially the Americans, to deal with the Palestine problem in a more serious manner," the agency reported him as saying in a news conference Sunday. Waldegrave is in Oman on a four-day visit. Asked about the impact of the two-year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, Waldegrave said: "When any people rise to put an end to occupation, there is no power in the world which can weaken their will." The agency quoted Waldegrave as saying "the Palestinian people have the right to sovereignty and independence."



An Israeli soldier keeps a watchful eye on Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem.

Hrawi assails Aoun but vows to seek Syrian pullout

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Elias Hrawi said in an interview published Sunday that rebellious Christian leader Michel Aoun was "an outlaw leading a mutiny that will only result in the final partition of Lebanon."

He also told the conservative Al-Diyar newspaper that he plans to invite all militia leaders to join his national reconciliation government, formed under an October peace accord brokered by the Arab League to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

But Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic elected Nov. 24, stressed the militia chiefs must first disband their private armies within six months, "otherwise they will be hit."

He did not elaborate. The Lebanese army is splintered, with 20,000 men supporting Aoun and 22,000 Muslim units, backing Hrawi.

But these units are poorly equipped and without Syrian military support would be hard

pressed to take on the Muslim and leftist militias.

Hrawi, 64, proposed a summit conference with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Lebanon's key power broker, "to begin discussing security roles and the withdrawal" of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

That appeared aimed at placating the defiant Aoun. He has demanded a complete withdrawal by the Syrians.

Hrawi declared: "I pledge to all the Lebanese that the Syrian forces will evacuate every part of Lebanon when the security needs for their presence cease to exist."

Meanwhile Arab peacekeepers held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad Sunday before flying to Paris to pursue their quest for lasting peace in Lebanon.

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Algeria arrived in Iraq Saturday night with Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi after holding talks with Syrian

leaders in Damascus.

Iraq backs Aoun while Syria supports Hrawi.

An Arab diplomat said Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and his Algerian counterpart Ahmad Ghazali discussed with Hussein the Arab League's latest efforts to win a lasting peace in Lebanon.

No details of the talks were revealed.

Prince Saud told reporters when he left Damascus that the Arab Peace team wanted to remove any obstacles to the peace plan under which Hrawi was elected and help his government consolidate its authority.

The Arab League peace committee was set up in May to seek an end to the Lebanese civil war. The committee brokered a ceasefire in late September which ended months of artillery battles between Aoun's forces and Syrian troops backed by their militia allies in which 850 people were killed.

Shamir ally says U.S. withholding information

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An ally of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir accused the United States Sunday of withholding information Israel needs to attend a meeting of U.S., Israeli, and Egyptian foreign ministers.

Israel said Friday Foreign Minister Moshe Arens would attend the Washington meeting but Shamir came under fire from hardliners within his Likud party during the weekly cabinet meeting.

The argument centres on the unpublished wording of Egypt's acceptance of a five-point U.S. proposal for Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo. Some Israeli leaders fear that the process could lead to contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"I don't see in the American stance a fair stance towards Israel. I believe the Americans definitely have to give us the full information. That in fact has not been done," Transportation Minister Moshe Katsav said after the cabinet meeting.

"There is no denying the fact that there is no date for the departure of the foreign minister," said Katsav, who is closely aligned with Shamir.

Shamir told the cabinet that Washington failed to provide Israel with details of Egypt's last message on the subject, political sources said.

An Israeli newspaper and Palestinian activists said secret contacts involving Israel, the United States and Egypt were underway to choose Palestinian negotiators for preliminary talks.

The independent Yediot Ahronot daily said the parties hope to draw up an agreed list of Palesti-

nians before next month's tripartite meeting in Washington when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is to host Arents and Esmat Abdul Meguid, the Egyptian foreign minister.

The behind-the-scenes diplomacy was aimed at circumventing Shamir's refusal to have direct or indirect dealings with the PLO.

Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner denied secret contacts were underway, saying, "It's not true, it is only speculation. There are no secret contacts. We haven't reached that stage yet."

But two Israeli officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said discussion of Palestinian negotiators may come up in talks expected later this month in Washington.

Assad Saftawi of Gaza City, a leading Palestinian activist and a longtime close associate of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, confirmed the report to the AP.

"I know there are secret negotiations between parties to the conflict," Saftawi added, noting that he was scheduled to travel to Cairo later this week to discuss the subject.

Saftawi also confirmed that he was one of some 20 names being considered as potential negotiators. Ten will be selected for the negotiating team when the ministers meet in Washington, Yediot Ahronot said.

Another leading Palestinian, Sari Nusseibeh, said he had heard contacts were underway. "I don't think there is a complete and final list of names. I think there is a serious and continuing discussion," he told the AP in a telephone interview.

Two boys shot dead in Gaza, West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli settlers shot dead two Arab teenagers Sunday, one in the occupied West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip, as the Palestinian uprising began its third year, hospital officials and residents said.

Barakat Adel Al Fakhouri, 17, died at the Alia hospital in the West Bank city of Hebron shortly after an Israeli settler fired at a crowd of Palestinians who stoned his car in the city, they said.

Israeli sources said the army was not involved in the incident but settlers were suspected of opening fire.

An Israeli guard in a petrol tanker shot dead Naim said Nofal, 17, after encountering rock-throwing protesters in Gaza's Zeitoun quarter, residents said.

Israeli police detained the truck driver and two security men for questioning in Ashkelon.

Seven other Palestinians were reported injured in clashes with troops, six in the Gaza Strip and one in Hebron.

The wounded included a Palestinian freelance journalist, Zakharia Hassan Al Taimas, 27, who was shot and seriously wounded in the stomach while filming a clash between troops and stone-throwing protesters in Gaza City, an eyewitness said.

In Hebron, reports said Jewish settlers shot and killed a 15-year-old Palestinian. Hospital officials said Barakah Ibrahim Fakhouri was killed with two gunshots in the head.

The two youths were the fourth and fifth Palestinians to die in a bloody weekend of clashes marking the rebellion's second anniversary.

The army lifted a three-day curfew on 650,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, but more than 175,000 West Bank residents remained confined to their homes.

A military spokesman said Nablus, the Balata, Askar, Jalazoun, Kalandia, Dheisheh and Tulikarm refugee camps and Bani Naim village remained under curfew.

Israeli troops shot dead two Bani Naim residents during fierce clashes Saturday, the second anniversary of the Palestinian revolt.

Israeli troops and settlers have killed at least 630 Palestinians since the uprising broke out Dec. 8, 1987.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Israel's leaders would be swept into history's dustbin if they turned a blind eye to super-power detente and the pace of change in Eastern Europe.

"These are new facts which no one can ignore... the torrential current of truth will carry away those who fail to come to terms with them and who do not want to see the reality of the Palestinian movement," Arafat said Saturday, second anniversary of the uprising.

"It will not help the leaders of Israel to turn a blind eye to them... (or else) the tide will sweep them into the dustbin of history in the third year of the intifada," he said in a message to Palestinians throughout the world.

Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said the intifada would continue "until the last Israeli soldier departs from our beloved land."

In the third year, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip should work on economic independence, he said.

"Let us follow up initiatives to build up the national economy by adopting a household economic system, by reclaiming the land and encouraging a return to work on the land," he said.

At the same time, the Palestinians of the intifada would strike new blows against the Israeli occupation by strengthening the system of popular committees, he added.

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Czechs dump Communists; reform calls sweep East

PRAGUE (Agencies) — Czechoslovakia ditched 40 years of Communist domination Sunday as the hopes of the 1968 "Prague spring" reform movement blossomed anew two decades after they were crushed by Soviet tanks.

Hardline President Gustav Husak, last of the leaders involved with the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion and its aftermath, stepped down and Czechoslovakia's first government since 1948 assumed power.

"It is a temporary government which shall lead the way to free elections," playwright Václav Havel, a former dissident con-

sidered the most likely successor to Husak, told more than 300,000 elated citizens jammed into Prague's Wenceslas Square.

The people had achieved "a peaceful revolution," he said.

Elsewhere in Eastern Europe, where a whirlwind of popular discontent has ended or threatened to end Communist domination in most of the Soviet Union's allies, massive crowds took to the streets to back calls for reform or demand faster progress towards democracy.

In East Germany, tens of thousands of people demonstrated in cities across the country as new Communist party leader Gregor Gysi, elected Saturday, faced a test of fire on his pledges

of reform ahead of the country's first free elections next May.

Pro-reform marches took place in Dresden, Magdeburg, Cottbus, Plauen and East Berlin, the official ADN news agency said.

But Sebastian Pflugbeil, a leading member of East Germany's biggest opposition group, New Forum, said he believed a demonstration in Leipzig Monday, the cradle of a reform movement that shattered 43 years of Communist domination in just two months, would make further demands for German reunification.

In Sofia, up to 50,000 Bulgarians marched through the capital and shouted for their Communist rulers to surrender their monopoly on power and hold talks with the opposition.

In the Soviet Union itself, voters went to the polls in the westernmost Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia to choose new municipal and rural councils in what were the closest to multi-party elections in Soviet history (see page 8).

World War II allies France, Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States plan a major conference on Monday to discuss the role of Berlin in East-West affairs, sources said Sunday.

The sources in West Berlin said the four power conference would be the first since the 1971 meeting that drew up the agreement establishing the allies' rights in the city.

French intervention seen possible in Comoros

DZAOUZI, Mayotte Island (Agencies) — French troops laboured in the tropical heat of this Indian Ocean territory Sunday as they prepared for possible military intervention on the neighbouring mercenary-held Comoros Islands.

At least five Puma transport helicopters have been flown into Mayotte since Friday and military sources said 300 paratroopers and commandos were being rushed in to reinforce the normal garrison of 250 French Foreign Legionnaires.

Three French warships were anchored at Mayotte Island, which decided to remain French when the other three Comoros Islands unilaterally declared independence in 1975, and military transport planes ferried in men and supplies.

Army vehicles bumped along the narrow roads of the capital Dzaoudzi ferrying supplies

from the aerodrome to a newly established camp of khaki tents, put up to house the military and possibly civilian evacuees from the Comoros Islands.

The dark brown Puma helicopters were parked nearby and French troops dressed in shorts sweated in the searing heat as they unloaded ammunition and other supplies.

The French Defence Ministry has ruled out an invasion of the Comoros to dislodge a group of about 30 white mercenaries who have held power since the assassination of President Ahmad Abdallah two weeks ago.

But it said Saturday that France was making contingency plans to evacuate 1,600 French passport holders from the volcanic islands northwest of Madagascar.

Despite official French de-

nials of an invasion, diplomats in the capital of Moroni, the capital of Mayotte, said France would probably be obliged to assume responsibility for security if the mercenaries depart.

The Comoros meanwhile are struggling to oust the mercenaries, who have

Israeli oppression led to Arab uprising — Carter

ATLANTA (R) — Ex-President Jimmy Carter, in a ceremony honouring Middle East human rights workers, has said that Israeli "oppression" in occupied territories had instigated the two-year-old Arab uprising.

Carter also said that, despite some recent policy changes by President George Bush, the "Reagan legacy" of Washington backing for military violence around the world survives.

He said the United States must share responsibility for wars in Central America and other regions in which millions of people are suffering.

Carter, who mediated the Israel-Egypt peace accord and now promotes human rights and peace as a private citizen, made his remarks in an address at his Atlanta Policy Centre, where a \$100,000 prize was given jointly to the Palestinian Al-Haq and Israeli B'tselem groups.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said its diplomats had been told to boycott the ceremony in which the four-year-old human rights award, named for Carter and

French-born Houston philanthropist Dominique de Menthon, was to be given to groups monitoring military abuses of Palestinians.

Carter, in his annual "state of human rights address," said activists watching abuses worldwide have only recently begun to focus public attention on the "humiliation and suffering in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on people who for more than 22 years have never known a day of freedom."

"This oppression has instigated the violence of the intifada," he said, adding that "damage to human souls has been reciprocal. The peace, reputation and conscience of Israeli citizens have suffered terribly. Such are the ravages of war."

But the former president, who made human rights a major facet of policy during his presidency from 1977-81, complained that

world leaders are largely indifferent to the cost of war on innocent populations and "scattered outcries for world peace" are simply ignored or considered signs of weakness or idealistic political aberrations.

"It is not easy to face facts. Everyone knows that the Israelis and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — yes, the PLO — must work together to resolve the conflict so that Israel's security can be preserved while the Palestinians finally enjoy self-determination and human rights," he said.

"Despite some commendable reverses in policy during recent months, the Reagan legacy survives," Carter asserted. "We have poured billions of dollars into El Salvador, much of the support going to military leaders who openly condone and probably direct the notorious death squads."

"The world knows that it was some of these same Salvadoran army troops who recently murdered six priests... We look the other way and maintain the flow of arms," he added.



Israeli soldiers stand easy on patrol in the Old City of Jerusalem but maintain alert as a Palestinian woman passes on the intifada's second anniversary.

UNRWA to protest school closures

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) has been advised by the Israeli occupation authorities that schools in the West Bank will be kept closed — if necessary, by force — until Jan. 10, 1990, when the delayed 1989-90 school year is to begin.

In view of this, UNRWA has decided not to attempt to re-open its schools in the West Bank as planned on Dec. 11 in order not to compromise the safety of 36,000 Palestine refugee schoolchildren.

The Israeli occupation authorities on Nov. 12 ordered all

schools in the West Bank closed "for the interest of the local residents and to secure discipline and order." That order made it impossible for UNRWA to complete the 1988-89 school year, as planned, by the end of November under a compressed curriculum aimed at making up for months of schooling lost the previous year.

UNRWA protested at the time that the closure order put the education of refugee children in serious jeopardy. The agency subsequently made plans to re-open the 90 affected UNRWA schools in the West Bank Dec. 11 in order to make up for time

already lost in the current school year.

The agency has now decided against trying to re-open its schools in the West Bank "despite the further loss of time and the increased burdens" that this will place on the pupils and their 1,340 teachers.

At the same time, UNRWA has expressed its disappointment to the Israelis at the way in which co-ordination was handled with the agency "on a matter of grave concern to us." It has also noted its intention to follow up the issues raised by the protracted West Bank school closures through appropriate channels.

U.S. battleship arrives in Bahrain

MANAMA (AP) — In a quiet shift of policy, the United States has replaced its aircraft carrier force in the Indian Ocean with a battleship, leaving the region uncattered by a carrier for the first time in more than three years.

The 58,000-ton USS New Jersey, one of four World War II-vintage battleships restored to active duty in recent years, arrived this month to replace the carrier USS Midway, which had patrolled the waters just outside the Gulf since September.

On Saturday, the New Jersey dropped anchor at Bahrain for the first of two unprecedented port calls in the Gulf. It is the first American capital ship to enter the strategic waterway in "modern times," according to Pentagon officials. It also is the largest warship ever to appear inside the Gulf, navy records show.

A Pentagon spokesman, army Col. Keith Schneider, called the ship's entry into the Gulf a

"routine operation to demonstrate a continuing U.S. commitment to the region."

Saudi Arabia, though friendly toward the United States, was reported to have rejected a request for the huge ship to visit one of its ports, an oil centre where thousands of American families live, and which is often visited by other U.S. warships.

The New Jersey sailed through the Strait of Hormuz Thursday night, leaving its seven escort ships behind in the north Arabian Sea.

By coincidence, it arrived as Iran began a week of naval manoeuvres in the southern Gulf, described by Tehran Radio as the largest such exercise since 1979. It was the second major drill since Iraq and Iran agreed to a ceasefire in August, 1988, ending their eight-year war.

During the war, U.S. aircraft carriers and battleships operated in the north Arabian Sea and

sometimes ventured into the outer straits, but never entered the Gulf proper.

U.S. officials said then that the huge ships' presence in the oil waterway was unnecessary and would doubtless be seen, especially by Iran and perhaps by some Arab states as well, as a provocation. They also noted that a carrier or battleship inside the Gulf would be vulnerable to possible terrorist or close-range military attack.

The New Jersey, first brought out of mothballs during the Vietnam War and again in the early 1980s, carries its original nine 16-inch (41-centimetre) guns but has been upgraded with an array of modern weaponry including long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles.

It last saw action off the coast of Lebanon in 1983, firing in support of U.S. Marines on a peacekeeping mission.

Thousands rally in Jerusalem for Arab-Israeli peace

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Thousands of Israeli peace activists carrying candles and portraits of Jewish and Arab children killed in the Palestinian uprising marched silently in occupied Jerusalem Saturday to demand peace talks with the PLO.

The torchlight demonstration was called by the leftist Peace Now Movement to mark the second anniversary of the start of the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Police estimated the crowd at 3,500. Organisers said about 5,000 people took part.

The protesters, including many of Israel's leading academics and writers, carried banners saying "143 Jewish and Palestinian children have died in the uprising."

Mounted police and paramilitary border police lined the route, which passed close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's official residence. A handful of right-wing hecklers shouted abuse at the marchers.

Israel Radio said eight supporters of far-right anti-Arab Rabbi Meir Kahane were detained for disturbing the peace.

The government refuses to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), branding it a "terrorist" group bent on Israel's destruction.

The Israeli human rights watchdog group B'tselem said troops and Jewish settlers have killed more than 100 Palestinians under the age of 16.

Three Israeli children were killed in a firebomb attack, a Jewish girl was accidentally shot dead by an Israeli guard when his hiking group clashed with Palestinians, and a settler's baby was shot dead accidentally by troops lying in ambush for Palestinian militants.

Placards and speakers at the march called on the government to negotiate with the PLO.

"We hope to bring to public attention the blood price that is being paid. This will cause more people to believe that the conflict

should be solved through negotiations," said Tzvi Reshef, a spokesman for Peace Now.

The peace activists were based in from across the country and included people from Tel Aviv, Israeli Arabs and residents of kibbutzes, or collective farms.

"This isn't a protest like a Eastern Europe, because there no one is getting killed. Here a people are fighting for an existence," said an Israeli Arab who would only give his first name as Ibrahim.

Benny Gefen, a farmer whose son was killed in a clash with Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon, carried a placard that read "it's easy to talk to friends. We must speak with the enemy."

"Enough blood has been shed," he said. "It's time to speak with the PLO. This is one of the things our prime minister does not understand."

8 journalists detained
Meanwhile eight journalists

and cameramen, including Associated Press reporter Habib Hamad, were detained by the army for more than five hours Saturday after they witnessed soldiers opening fire on Palestinian protesters.

Several cars carrying the journalists were stopped by soldiers after the vehicles left the village of Beit Naim, where two people were killed and one wounded in army gunfire during a protest marking the start of the Palestinian uprising's third year.

Film and videotape cassettes were seized from photographers and television crews, Hamad said.

Others who were held included cameramen or reporters for the U.S. television network ABC, the television agencies Visnews and WTN, and two freelance photographers.

The eight men were held at army headquarters in Hebron, near Beit Naim, then taken to

Hebron Police Headquarters.

Army spokesman, who cannot be identified under military regulations, said those detained were not arrested or charged. They said the delay in their release came because arrangements had to be made for the films and tapes to be taken for viewing by military officials.

However, Hamad said he and the others each had to sign a bail warrant for 3,000 shekels (\$1,500) before their release.

He said they were not told if they were accused of any crime but were questioned about whether they knew they had entered a closed military area. Out-siders are forbidden to enter closed zones.

Soldiers often close down towns or villages where trouble develops, sometimes after reporters already are present. The journalists who were detained were all in the village covering a protest march before it turned violent, Hamad said.

Egyptian oil platform seriously damaged

CAIRO (R) — Production has stopped at an oil platform seriously damaged when a ship struck it Friday in the Gulf of Suez, an operating company official said Sunday.

The official, from the Gulf of Suez Petroleum Company (GUPCO), could not say when production of 6,000 barrels a day would resume. He said little oil was spilled as valves to the well closed automatically on impact and no one was hurt.

Egypt's Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandeel, quoted by the semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper, estimated initial damage at \$30 million, mainly in lost production.

Kandeel said production at other platforms would be increased to compensate and shipping would not be affected.

The GUPCO official said the ship, the Panay Sampaguita, had hit the platform while sailing up the Gulf of Suez towards the Suez Canal. He said both weather and visibility had been fine.

Israel to supply arms to Ethiopia, report says

LONDON (AP) — Israel has agreed to supply arms to Ethiopia in a swap for Ethiopian Jews, the Sunday Times reported, quoting unspecified Western diplomatic sources.

Thousands of Ethiopian Jews, known as Falashas, were allowed to emigrate from war-torn and drought-ravaged Ethiopia to Israel in 1985. Estimates of the number remaining vary.

The arms offered include ammunition and spare parts for Soviet weaponry captured by the Israelis, the weekly said.

The Soviet Union has been the main backer of Ethiopian ruler,

President Mengistu Haile Mariam, in his long-running civil war with secessionist guerrillas and with Somali forces and later Somali guerrillas on his eastern border.

But Soviet military help is now being scaled down and all the Soviet military advisers are expected to be out of the war zone by Christmas, the newspaper said.

The deal with Israel prepares the way for extensive intelligence cooperation between Ethiopia and Israel and a runway and a listening station will be built for Israeli use on the "strategically

positioned Ethiopian Dahlak Islands in the Red Sea," the report said.

The weekly said up to 200 Israeli soldiers and technicians are in the capital, Addis Ababa, training Ethiopian officers and repairing military hardware.

Ethiopia in November restored diplomatic relations with Israel after severing them over the 1973 Middle East war.

The day after Israeli-Ethiopian ties were restored, Israel's foreign minister, Moshe Arens, said the move would "facilitate the ability to deal directly with the government of Ethiopia to bring

out the remainder of Ethiopian Jewry to Israel."

But the Times quoted an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying there were "no strings attached" to the renewal and that he knew nothing about any military agreement.

In a similar report last month, the official Sudanese newspaper Al Engaz Al Watani said that, as part of the deal realising diplomatic ties, Ethiopia would provide Israel with naval facilities in the Red Sea and 22,000 Ethiopian Jews would be allowed to leave for Israel.

Crew of sunken boat arrive in Suez

SUEZ (AP) — The captain and crew of a Cyprus-flagged, phosphate-laden boat which sank in the Red Sea near Ethiopia on Dec. 7, arrived Sunday on board a ship that rescued them, a police official said.

The captain of the Sterling Grace cargo boat told Egyptian

police that his boat sank in the Red Sea near Ethiopia after it struck an unidentified object.

Greek Captain Giorgos Kokorakis told police that when the boat started sinking, he and his 20 Greek and Filipino crewmen sent distress signals and then threw themselves into the water. He said a Japanese-owned ship, the Pelander, heard their distress signal and rescued them several hours after their boat had sunk.

"I do not know exactly what made the boat sink. We had passed the Saudi port of Jeddah and were passing near the Ethiopian coast when the ship was severely shaken like it had struck something," the police official quoted Kokorakis as saying.

"We found a big hole in the side of the boat and water quickly started filling up the hull and the boat started sinking quickly. We sent distress signals and then threw ourselves into the water and swam away from the ship," Kokorakis told police.

Kokorakis did not specify whether the boat was in international waters in the Red Sea or whether it was in Ethiopian waters.

The phosphates and fertilizers which the boat was carrying can be harmful to fish and other sea life. Lloyds Shipping Intelligence says the Sterling Grace is managed by Interglobal Marine Agencies, S.A. Piraeus, Greece.

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PROGRAMME ONE	
18:20 Koran
18:30 Programme review
18:45 Children programmes
18:50 News summary in Arabic
18:55 World News
19:05 Local programme
19:10 Programme review
19:15 News in Arabic
19:20 Arabic series
19:30 Programme review
19:35 Local programmes
19:40 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO	
18:20 Des Cloffres et de lettres
18:30 L'Appart
18:40 News in French
18:45 Weekly Sport magazine
18:50 News in Hebrew
18:55 Arabic series
19:00 Programme review
19:05 Local programmes
19:10 News in Arabic
19:15 Arabic series
19:20 Programme review
19:25 Local programmes
19:30 News in Arabic
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21:40 Programme review
21:45 Local programmes
21:50 News in Arabic
21:55 Arabic series
22:00 Programme review
22:05 Local programmes
22:10 News in Arabic
22:15 Arabic series
22:20 The Alamo: 13 days to Glory

FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM EVERY DAY



Director of Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department, Ahmad Qatanani, Sunday briefs the visiting U.N. delegation in Amman (Petra photo)

U.N. team urged to take steps in support of women under occupation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Sunday urged a visiting United Nations fact-finding commission to take practical steps in supporting the position of Palestinian women in the occupied Arab territories.

"The United Nations ought to investigate the real conditions of the Palestinian women and provide material and moral support to improve these conditions and help the oppressed women strengthen the Arab steadfastness in the face of Israel's occupation and its atrocities," Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs Director Ahmad Qatanani said at a meeting with the visiting team.

The team, assigned by the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to look

into the conditions of Palestinian women, groups four female experts on women's affairs from Norway, Argentina, the United States and the United Nations.

Qatanani briefed the team on aid offered by Jordan to help support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people by facilitating the marketing of agricultural products in Jordan and by providing social and administrative aid to the Palestinian citizens under Israeli occupation.

Qatanani said that the Palestinian women under occupation are providing a major contribution to the current uprising by caring for the wounded at their homes and doing all that is needed for the young men con-

fronting the Israeli troops.

He presented the visiting team with a statistical bulletin on the situation in the occupied Palestinian lands and noted that the current Israeli atrocities had caused 5,000 abortions over the past two years which also witnessed the death of 73 Palestinian women.

The Israeli authorities continue to detain hundreds of Palestinian women who are heroically confronting the Israeli forces by all available means, Qatanani added.

The U.N. team will hold meetings with other officials and interview Palestinian women deported from the occupied territories before winding up the current visit Friday.

Badran receive more congratulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office Sunday Mr. Yousef Sha'lan, from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and discussed with him Jordan's relations with the IMF.

The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh.

Last year the IMF proposed an economic reform programme for Jordan which Badran has said his government will abide by to help the country overcome its present financial and economic problems.

Also Sunday, Badran received in his office the head and members of the Higher Court of Justice who called to offer their congratulations to the prime minister on forming his government.

Badran later received the ambassadors of Kuwait, Turkey, Great Britain and the United States who also offered their congratulations.

The prime minister Sunday received cables of congratulations from the prime ministers of Kuwait, Iraq and France.

Briefs

PRINCE VISITS DIVISION: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Sunday called at the 12th Royal Mechanized Division where he was received by its commander and officers. Prince Mohammad was briefed on the division's duties and its training programme. Also Sunday Prince Mohammad called at Al Wihda Dam project site and heard a briefing on the project's development. (Petra)

LAWZI MEETS ENVOYS: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Sunday received in his office Moroccan Ambassador to Jordan Abdul Latif Al Iraqi who conveyed to him the congratulations of the Moroccan parliament speaker on being reappointed as speaker of the Upper House. Lawzi also received Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Oktay Aksoy who gave him a message of congratulations from the Turkish National Assembly speaker. (Petra)

CONGRATULATIONS TO IRAQ: The Lower House of Parliament Sunday sent a cable to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein congratulating Iraq for its success in launching a rocket capable of carrying a satellite. The cable sent by House Speaker Suleiman Arar paid tribute to the Iraqi military industries for their major achievement in which the Arab nation takes great pride. (Petra)

ABU TALES RETURNS: Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb returned home Sunday after an official visit to the United States at the head of a military delegation. He was received at the airport by his assistants and the Royal Air Force commander. (Petra)

IRAQI DELEGATION: The Iraqi Ministry of Local Administration delegation currently on a visit to Jordan, Sunday called at the Ports Corporation in Aqaba city and heard a briefing from its Director General Eid Al Fayez on its establishment and its role in serving the national economy and the local society in Aqaba District. (Petra)

Regional conference on land and water opens Jordan struggles to meet water requirements — Khalaf

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is struggling to meet its requirements of water supplies and has embarked on new programmes in search of water resources. The Kingdom is also building dams to make available sufficient amounts of water for irrigation, Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf said Sunday.



Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf Sunday opens a regional conference on land and water in Amman (Petra photo)

At present, the Kingdom is conducting studies on the exploitation of non-traditional water resources, such as recycling treated wastewater for agricultural purposes and upgrading irrigation techniques, water distribution and water management, the minister told the opening session of a five-day regional conference on land and water in the Near East region which is held here under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Delegates from 22 Arab and foreign countries in the region are taking part in the conference which is being organised by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Khalaf told the meeting that Jordan is considered part of the semi-arid regions of the world which receives no more than 200 millimetres of water annually; and therefore the country has to depend more and more on artesian wells and underground water resources.

But, he said, all measures are being taken "to save every drop of the precious supplies for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes."

"For a long time now Jordan has been preoccupied with studies and research work on ways to make available sufficient supplies of water and the ministry has now drawn up broadlines for a national water strategy based on the available resources and the potential skills for exploiting these resources in the best possible manner," the minister pointed out.

Khalaf paid tribute to FAO and its affiliate organisations for their help to the developing nations in the fields of agriculture and water development.

The FAO representative at the meeting said that his organisation was impressed with Jordan's endeavours in water and land development and the extensive

schemes being implemented in the Jordan Valley.

The conference, he said, aims to help the participants, who are all engineers and specialists, to make better use of water and land to increase food production.

The meeting will review 14 working papers on the use of land and water resources, the implementation of resolutions and recommendations passed by previous meetings and developments in technology pertaining to land, water, agriculture and irrigation.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the first session reviewed four working papers one of which was presented by Jordan, dealing with the socio-economic aspects of water and land projects.

The meeting, which is held biennially, is also attended by representatives of regional and international organisations concerned with development.

A U.N. official here said that the participants will direct their attention to the following issues: Problems pertaining to irrigation in the Near East region, maintenance and operation work connected with irrigation, proper use of water resources for irrigation, socio-economic aspects related to the treatment of waste-water and recycling it for farming, fertilisers, improved methods of crop production in rain-fed regions, monitoring the leakage and waste of water and ways to deal with this problem in the Western Asian region.

The official said that the participants will tour a number of water projects in the Jordan Valley where modern techniques in irrigation have been introduced.

The Jordanian delegation will submit two research papers to the meeting.

Meeting discusses report on air, water pollution in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Swedish team specialising in Environmental protection has worked out an initial study focusing light on pollution in the air, and water in the Zarga, Aqaba and Amman regions in implementation of an agreement signed with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, according to the ministry's Secretary General Sufian Al Tal.

Tal made the announcement at a meeting called to discuss the various aspects of the three part report and arrangement for implementing recommendations included in it.

Tal said that the first part deals with water resources, management of treated wastewater, air pollutants, health considerations and control on pollution and proper disposal of mercury sediments in the soil.

The second part deals with the environmental situation in Aqaba and Zarga and the prospect of producing energy from Amman's garbage.

The third part deal with studies to provide Amman with water and problems pertaining to the Khirbet Al Samra wastewater treatment plant.

Tal told the meeting that the Swedish experts propose working out a strategy that would deal with air and water pollution in the Aqaba, Zarga and Amman regions and a way for dealing with pollution of underground water.

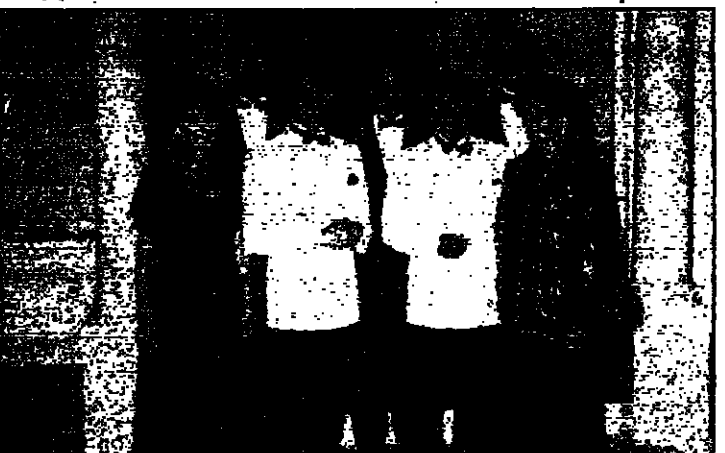
He said the report demands that proper attention be given to current water pumping processes from artesian wells.

Further recommendations included in the report call for the rationalisation of water consumption used in industries, treatment of industrial water and giving further attention to the protection of water and air from pollution in the Zarga region.

In February 1989 two Swedish experts in environment protection raised questions on air and water pollution in Jordan as part of a long term problem identification project to improve the environmental conditions in the country.

The two experts referred in particular to pollution in the Zarga River and areas surrounding industries along the river as well as issues related to wastewater treatment.

In June this year, Tal announced that Jordan has embarked on the implementation of a national environment strategy and was enlisting the assistance of Swedish experts.



'Oh Coward'

AMMAN (J.T.) — For the third time this year, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental in association with British Airways, hosts the cast of yet another of Derek Nimmo's theatrical productions, Oh Coward, by Sir Noel Coward. Unlike previous Noel Coward productions, Oh Coward is a musical revue containing extracts from his plays, reminiscence of his life and the many songs that have won him legend. With the two actors Mark Wynter and Roland Curran and the two actresses Jan Waters and Brown Williams, the evening is rich in wit, music, romance, dance and drama.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- An exhibition organised by the Goethe Institute entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid.
- A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition which includes publications on the Palestinian issue at the Yarmouk University.
- A photographic exhibition, held on the 150th anniversary of the invention of photography, by Karine and Demitrev at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- A photographic exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of paintings and photographs on the Palestinian intifada at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- An art exhibition by Khaled Maszi at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Akram Haddad and Lebanese artist Fatima Hussein at Alfa Art Gallery.
- An exhibition on the Great Arab Revolt which includes photos, maps and documents at the Yarmouk University.

POETRY RECITAL

- Poetry recital on the intifada by a number of Jordanian poets at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

FILMS

- A French film entitled "Jenny" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- A Soviet film entitled "Assassinating the Future" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.
- Two Alfred Hitchcock films entitled "Young and Innocent" and "Secret Agent" at the British Council at 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. respectively.

Jordan calls for complex to broadcast ACC news

CAIRO (J.T.) — Jordan has presented a working paper to an Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) meeting in Cairo providing for cooperation among the national news agencies of Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen.

The paper was debated at a meeting by the heads of the news agencies in the first day of a conference called to discuss the implementation of resolutions taken by ACC ministers of information held in Baghdad last August.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Jordanian paper presented by Petra Director Ali Safadi calls for the creation of a complex for the four agencies to broadcast news about the ACC states to be controlled by a special council elected by the four countries.

The meetings were opened by Egyptian Minister of Information Safwat Al Sharif who voiced his country's approval of the complex which, he said, pools the work of the four news agencies and helps to speed up the integration of the ACC's informational systems.

Sharif said that news agencies can and should contribute to the economic and political integration of the ACC countries and promote their development plans.

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Positive route

THE Arab League efforts to put flesh on the Taif accord have taken them now to Baghdad where Iraqi thoughts on how to accelerate the Arab efforts to bring peace and reconciliation to Lebanon will be heard. The fact that the Iraqi government has wholeheartedly welcomed the Arab political itinerary to Baghdad and expressed readiness to lead meaningful support to the on-going Arab search for a viable solution to the Lebanese conflict is certainly a very positive development on the road to peace in that country. Iraq has become a regional power in the Middle East especially after its magnificent victory over Iran and the development of very sophisticated rocketry industry. It is therefore natural and indeed logical that Iraq plays its appropriate role in the events that are shaping the politics of the region.

Likewise Syria is also a regional power in its own right and its ability to influence the course of events in the Middle East is obviously a foregone conclusion. What has been fatally missing during all these past years is the interruption of communication and cooperation between Damascus and Baghdad. This unfortunate state of affairs has had a negative effect on the quest for peace in Lebanon, not to mention other conflicts in the Middle East region. It stands to reason, therefore, that the highest priority be accorded to reestablishing brotherly relations between Syria and Iraq. Once this inevitable development occurs, the entire face of the Arab World would change for the better. The fruits of such a brotherly relation between two sister states will of course have a bearing not only on the Lebanese situation but also on the broader Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq relations. As a matter of fact Arab conflicts and disputes with their near or distant neighbours would begin to find opportunities for just solutions and resolution only when Baghdad and Damascus are on speaking terms on a truly brotherly basis. It behoves both countries, therefore, to make stronger and more persistent efforts to repair the bridges between them if not for their own respective interests then for the sake of entire Arab order and welfare.

It is with this backdrop that the Arab World welcomes the visit of Saad Al Faisal, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, and Ahmad Ghazali, the foreign minister of Algeria together with the Arab League's special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi to Baghdad to pursue the search for peace in Lebanon. With the future of the Arab efforts in Lebanon hanging on the balance, the success of the Arab visit to Iraq would surely determine which way these efforts should turn.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday gave prominence to statements given by His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak following the latter's brief visit to Jordan and his talks with the King on Middle East issues. The paper said that the two leaders' emphasis on the rights of the Palestinian people and their determination to work together to support the Palestinian people's struggle coincided with the second anniversary of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The King and the Egyptian president both pledged to maintain the momentum of their efforts to help the Palestinian people live in peace and freedom, something that is being sought by the international community and opposed by the Israeli occupation authorities, the paper noted. It said that the two leaders' meeting in Amman bore a clear indication to the Palestinians who are waging a war of liberation against the enemy that the Arab Nation is firmly behind the PLO's attempts to regain freedom and legitimate rights. The King and Mubarak who, of course, consulted on Arab affairs, dwell in particular on the Palestine question and means of giving impetus to the peace process, the paper added.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday says there is no alternative for the Arabs but to rely totally on themselves in their long struggle with the Israeli enemy. Fahd Al Rimawi points out that in the light of the current international events in general and the attitude of the Soviet Union in particular, the Arab countries have no choice but to build up their own forces and depend on their own intrinsic power in their confrontation with the Israeli enemy which continues to occupy Arab land in Palestine. The writer notes that Moscow is now trying to end the cold war with the West at any cost; and is rearranging its priorities in such a manner so as to offer service for the Soviet people. He draws attention to the fact that the Soviet Union is now moving from the status of a traditional and permanent friend of the Arabs to a neutral friendly state with less concern to the events in the Middle East region. This means, says the writer, that Moscow will sooner or later leave the Arabs to face their own fate, following more than four decades of assistance to the Arab Nation and in view of the new developments on the world scene. The writer notes also that a disengagement in the alliance between the Soviets and the Arabs coincides with a hardened position on the part of the United States and Israel towards the Arab Nation and in view of the new developments on the world scene. The writer notes also that a disengagement in the alliance between the Soviets and the Arabs coincides with a hardened position on the part of the United States and Israel towards the Arab Nation and this, he notes, should be taken into consideration by the Arab governments which must now opt to bolstering intrinsic Arab forces and mobilising Arab resources in the political, economic and military fields to confront any eventualities in the coming stage.

Al Dustour daily on Sunday said the King Hussein's talks with President Mubarak assumed a great significance, coming in the midst of serious developments on the Arab scene and as the Palestinian people's uprising enters its third year. The statements given to the press by the two leaders reflect the Egyptian-Jordanian coordination of stands and full cooperation in the course of providing assistance to the oppressed people of Palestine, said the paper. It noted that the two leaders dwell in particular on the Middle East crisis and reviewed ways to give momentum to the peace process and to back the PLO's efforts to attain the aspirations and fulfill the hopes of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Weekly Political Pulse

What path should uprising take?

TO PARAPHRASE Mahatma Gandhi's words during the Indian struggle for independence, violent uprising enflames the will and determination of the colonial powers while non-violent and peaceful struggle against those powers would open their eyes and hearts. Many observers and commentators would venture to offer the wisdom of Gandhi on how the Palestinian uprising should proceed as it enters its third year. In rebuttal, other commentators would argue that what suited India may not suit the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the two situations are not comparable. Yet after two years on the start of the Palestinian intifada, often characterised as semi-violent, it is a propitious occasion to take stock of the path that the intifada has taken and appraise its future course, knowing full well that the best judge of which way the intifada must continue is the Palestinian people under occupation.

From a purely conceptual point of view, the principal difficulty with a quasi violent insurgency is that it is neither one kind nor the other and thus it is ending up with all the risks of a violent insurgency without the full benefits of a peaceful and Gandhi like struggle for independence and self-determination. There would come a day when the Palestinian uprising must choose which way it wants to go instead of treading the on-going middle course, which is like having the worst of the two worlds. The pitfalls associated with turning the uprising into an armed conflict are too obvious to require elucidation. Suffice to recall in this context that there is always the risk that the Israeli hardliners, the likes of Sharon, Levy and Modai, would resort to the full Israeli military

might to quash the armed resistance and execute their conspiracy to "transfer" the Palestinians to neighbouring Arab countries. However, an international public outcry could prevent this from happening and frustrate the diabolic designs of the extremist in Israel.

Nevertheless, like violent resistance to Israeli occupation, semi violent opposition to Israeli colonialism of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has apparently done what Gandhi has cautioned against, i.e., enflamed the stubbornness of the Israeli establishment and hardened its public opinion. This is at least what the latest opinion polls conducted in Israel reveal. How accurate such polls are in reflecting the real sentiments of the Israeli body politic is another question. Putting aside public opinion in Israel as portrayed by polls, there is no doubt that the Israeli establishment fears non-violent opposition to their occupation perhaps more than they fear the semi-violent one. The example of Beit Sahr, which shook the whole world a few weeks ago, is a case in point. What happened there was a demonstration of a Palestinian will to reject taxation without representation in the most peaceful way possible. It so happens that the principle against payment of taxation without representation is a cardinal rule in contemporary Western civilisation with which the entire world sympathises wholeheartedly. And there is no denying that the case of Beit Sahr has contributed to the quest of the Palestinian people for self-government and independence a great deal.

Another case in point is the deportation of pacifist Mubarak Awad by the Israeli authorities to the U.S. a few months ago. It will be recalled that Awad, a Palestinian American, had advocated a non-violent opposition to Israeli occupation. Tel Aviv feared so much his peaceful ways against their occupation and tyranny that they hurriedly deported him in spite of strong protests from Washington. The haste with which Israel had acted against Awad does indeed suggest that the Israeli leaders fear most his style of resistance. Mubarak Awad's ways have indeed fortified what Mahatma Gandhi had foretold few decades ago when he counselled his people that non-violent resistance would open the eyes and hearts not only of the entire international community but also those of the adversary as well.

Still in order to paint a more complete picture of violent and non-violent uprisings, it is in order to recall that in many other parts of the world, the struggle for independence took the route of an armed conflict. Gandhi's style of peaceful persuasion succeeded very well in India. Yet the same could be true had the Indian taken the violent road to independence. The arguments for non-violent uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip could be more overwhelming than for violent intifada in view of the wide disparity between the two sides in armament and weaponry. But whatever the future course of the Palestinian intifada, a decision must be taken one way or the other rather than keeping it right in between where it stands.

Weary big brothers

By Martha Walker

FOR ONCE the conventional wisdom was right. This Malta summit was indeed historic. But the conventional wisdom is right for the wrong reasons. The importance of the Bush-Gorbachev meeting at Malta was finally and clearly to signal the end not of the Cold War, but of the superpower era.

All the guff about the end of the Cold War is getting a bit tiresome. We heard this cliché after the Washington summit of December 1987, and after the Moscow summit of 1988 and after the Reagan-Gorbachev farewell session in New York last December.

The only honest thing anyone important has said about the Cold War recently was George Bush at his press conference in Brussels, finally confessing why he refused to play the game of giving easy headlines to lazy hacks. "If I signal to you the Cold War is over, everyone will be saying what are you doing with your troops still in Europe," he told us.

It was a striking flash of candour from a much relieved president. Bush had arrived in Malta as nervous as a school-boy on his first big date. This is not to disparage the man. His boyishness, his capacity to be genuinely enthused, is one of the president's most attractive features.

Even though we all know that Bush is a wealthy patrician from a family of New England grandees, Americans like to feel they are ruled by Tom Sawyer, and Bush's air of whole-some innocence is not altogether artificial. Gorbachev is no Huckleberry Finn, but the Malta summit did see a personal relationship established. Ironically, the terrible weather gave them a sense of shared drama, a sort of "Gee, Mikhail, remember when we were all sick in Malta" bonding experience which is going to prove useful in the future.

But this helplessness of the commanders of the world's two most powerful navies before the winter storms of the Mediterranean sea symbolised the deeper impotence of the two superpowers as the world they once commanded simply vapourised.

All their weaponry has been of sublime irrelevance to the peoples' revolutions sweeping across Eastern Europe. Gorbachev may have launched the process, but once under way, all Bush's horses and all the Kremlin's men could not have put the old Warsaw Pact together again.

Equally, all the horses and men and tanks and missiles will not be able to keep the Germans apart much longer. This will be very difficult for all the neighbours. As Clemenceau said of this most numerous of Europe's fractious tribes, there are simply 15 million Germans too many.

The superpowers at Malta, and the rest of their allies at the NATO meeting in Brussels, tried to agree on terms under which German re-unification would be permitted. It was an honourable attempt. But it is almost certainly doomed to fail.

Even as Bush and Gorbachev agreed over the weekend that it was time to slow down the German process, the bombshell of the East German leaders' secret Swiss bank accounts was exploding in Berlin, and accelerating the German revolution even faster.

A state without a justification since the collapse of its ideology, East Germany now lacks even a government. Vernon Walters, the US ambassador to Bonn, gave a private prediction recently that within five years there would be a united Germany with a capital in Berlin.

Meanwhile US Secretary of State Jim Baker — dined with his West German counterpart, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and passed on the Bush-Gorbachev

agreement on the need for caution.

Baker also formally delivered the thumbs-down to Chancellor Kohl's 10-point plan for re-unification. Washington was opposed to any unitary state institutions, and to a joint president for both Germans.

Genscher said he agreed with these objections, but advised Baker that Kohl was now a prisoner of the German political process.

On Dec. 4 NATO came up with its agreed formula to control the process of what the Alliance calls "German self-determination". The form of words that everybody felt able to accept was that this should be "a peaceful step-by-step process linked firmly to European integration and to the Alliance".

That is where the NATO plan falls into step with the Gorbachev concept, as spelt out to President Bush in Malta. Having for years called for the abolition of both NATO and the Warsaw Pact, Gorbachev was now in favour of keeping them, as a guarantee of continuity and stability, and seeing them evolve from military blocks into political alliances.

What both the NATO and the Gorbachev plans have in common is keeping West Germany locked into NATO, and East Germany in the Pact, and thus in the most crucial way, keeping the two Germanies distinct, while the two alliances evolve.

The balance of power lives. After forty years of the Manichean struggle between good and evil, East and West, we are now seeing the emergence of a clear community of interest between Washington and Moscow, agreeing once again on the need for a joint policy to hold down those pesky Europeans.

There has been a great deal of self-congratulation about the whole move towards Europe-92. We tend conveniently to forget that when we talk grandly of European civilisation we are referring to the most warlike, unruly, greedy and vicious peoples on the planet. No wonder the rest of the world is worried about us.

The tragedy of Europe's history is that the continent has already been dominated by one bully or another. The only alternative that history has found to the domination of Europe by the French or the Germans has been for the flank powers to be ready to intervene.

There was a time when this meant us British and the Russians were able to put together the effective land-sea coalition to defeat Napoleon. The emergence of the German superpower proved beyond the combined powers of France, Britain and Russia, and so we exhausted islanders became part of the European problem, while America took our place as the solution.

What we have seen in the four days in Malta and in Brussels was a last attempt by the flank powers to maintain their control over us unruly Europeans for their tranquillity and our own good. It is unlikely to last. Even if the German peoples acquiesce in the Bush-Gorbachev plans to slow their re-unification, the superpowers are ready to give up. They are weary of the game. The Russians are economically prostrate and fast losing their superpower status. Financially battered by the strain of the last great rearmament effort of the 1980s, the Americans are beginning the long process of withdrawing the legions.

We still have some little time to go, but essentially, we fractions, quarrelsome Europeans had better get used to the prospect of being left to our own dangerous devices. We have exhausted their patience and their resources, and the grown-ups are preparing to leave — The Guardian.

U.S. prestige eroding at U.N.

By Victoria Graham
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The PLO's failure to win U.N. recognition as the government of Palestine is the latest in a series of confrontations that have put the United States on a collision course with the world body and generated suspicion about U.S. motives.

Last Wednesday, Arab states, pressured by the United States, abandoned their efforts to enhance the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and recognise it as the provisional government of the state of Palestine.

The United States had threatened to cut off funding to the United Nations if the 159-nation world body agreed to enhance the PLO's status, giving it a standing equivalent to that of other non-voting observer states, like the Vatican, Switzerland, San Marino and North and South Korea.

The United States, the major U.N. donor, was effectively threatening the organisation with bankruptcy if it did not obey Washington and drop the PLO issue.

The PLO and some Arab diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. action had enhanced the visibility of the PLO and, in the long run, had strengthened its cause.

But they and other diplomats did not expect the move would alter the way the United States does business in the world body.

The United States is the organisation's largest donor and is one of five permanent members of the 15-member Security Council with veto power. The U.S. government can kill any measure in the council, which can pass mandatory resolutions and is the most important U.N. body.

Although the United States often is outvoted in the 159-nation General Assembly, that body's resolutions are not binding.

The PLO already is invited to speak during all General Assembly debates concerning the Middle East and the Palestinian question. The Security Council routinely overrides U.S. efforts to keep the PLO from participating in debates there.

Riyadh H. Mansour, deputy



permanent observer of the PLO, said the U.S. efforts at "financial blackmail" had harmed U.S. credibility in the world body and in the Middle East peace process. But he said he did not expect any change in U.S. behaviour as a result.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, assembly President Joseph Garba and the leaders of regional groups in the world body all have denounced Washington for linking its funding to the assembly's vote on a specific issue.

The United States is assessed \$216 million each year, one quarter of the U.N. budget. But it also contributes \$459 million in general arrears and owes an additional \$191 million in contributions to peacekeeping operations.

The United States won the battle over the PLO issue because of its financial might. But in the long run it may have lost additional prestige and honour in the organisation by throwing its weight around, without regard to the will of the majority, said some diplomats from Arab and developing world nations.

Arab states, although bowing to U.S. pressure, criticised the

United States for what some diplomats called bullying tactics and attempting to unilaterally influence the issue with "financial terrorism."

Last week, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation defied a U.S. threat to cut off funds and gave greater recognition to the PLO. It voted overwhelmingly to help it train Palestinians how to grow food in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The State Department has not announced whether it will make good on previous threats to halt funding or possibly withdraw from FAO.

The PLO was given observer status to the United Nations in 1975 after a visit by Chairman Yasser Arafat. The United Nations considers it the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

But the United States, an ally of Israel, consistently has sought to curtail PLO rights, guaranteed by the most country agreement between the United States and the United Nations. It has claimed that the PLO is a "terrorist" organisation and should not be represented in the world body.

The U.S.-PLO dispute at the

U.N. dates to late 1987 when the U.S. Congress adopted an anti-terrorism law that called for closing the U.N. observer mission of the PLO, on grounds that it indirectly promoted terrorism. The U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution rebuking the United States and saying the PLO has a right to function here.

The World Court in the Hague also said the U.S. decision was a violation of the U.N. headquarters agreement.

A U.S. district court judge also upheld the right of the PLO to operate a mission.

In November 1988, the United States refused to grant a visa to Arafat to address the General Assembly, as he had done in 1975. Again the General Assembly protested and it decided to move its session to Geneva in order to hear Arafat, delivering another blow to U.S. prestige.

At that session in December, Arafat renounced "terrorism" and implicitly recognised Israel's right to exist. The United States then opened negotiations with the PLO in Tunis; the talks are not making major progress on substantive issues, but are continuing.

By Jeremy Clift
Reuters

MANILA — Philippine President Corason Aquino is in a new fighting mood.

Determined to grab the initiative after defeating the sixth army coup attempt against her in almost four years, Aquino is counter-attacking, seeking emergency rule powers and launching a broadside against her political enemies.

Serving notice that she would adopt a more combative approach, the usually soft-spoken Aquino told cheering supporters: "Perhaps this revolt occurred to tell me, Cory you must get angry, you must fight those who fight you."

Returning to the fiery rhetoric of the 1986 "people power" revolt against former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Aquino blasted her estranged Vice-President Salvador Laurel and two other opposition leaders, implicitly linking them to the coup.

Mobilising tens of thousands of supporters on the streets of Manila on Friday, a day after rebel soldiers in the capital ended their putsch and marched defiantly back to barracks, Aquino staged a new show of "people power" strength.

She made no promises to tackle the root causes of the revolt. Rebel leaders had demanded her resignation, saying she was indecisive, mismanaged the country,

Aquino in fighting mood after coup attempt

tolerated corruption among her relatives, appointed incompetent and self-interested ministers and was soft on the 20-year Communist insurgency.

During the six-day coup, the influential archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, said it was clear that drastic changes must be made in the way the government operated.

"If there is one thing Filipinos like, it is a fight, and it looks like the president has just declared war on three major political figures, and possibly, even the senate president," said political commentator Luis Beltran.

"There is, of course, one other effect that the president's public anger may achieve, and that is deflect demands for political reforms in her administration to a hue and cry against the perpetra-

tors of the coup," he said.

In a much-applauded speech on Friday, Aquino urged Vice-President Laurel to quit, saying the budget for his office could be used better elsewhere.

She challenged him to explain the coincidence that he was always out of the capital when there was a coup attempt. "He keeps saying: Cory resign, Cory resign. What does he think I am, a fool, that I will resign so he will become president?"

Naming names for the first time, Aquino also implicitly tied former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and her own first cousin, wealthy industrialist Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to the coup that nearly toppled her.

Aquino said the senate would investigate Enrile's possible role,

adding it was suspicious that Cojuangco returned from political exile in the United States a week before the putsch.

The Philippine Inquirer said in a Saturday editorial that she must do more than entertain the crowd with fighting talk.

It called for a cabinet reshuffle to give the government a new start, urged Aquino to tackle corruption and said she must find a way to help the military with its primary task of combating the Communist rebels.

Aquino, saying the country was facing "grave and serious problems which threaten our political and economic stability," has asked the congress for emergency powers to rule.

Some senators fear her request for powers of arrest, seizure and detention, smack too much of the martial law period under Marcos that eventually led to Aquino's victory.

Referring to Aquino's public attacks on Laurel, Enrile and Cojuangco, political commentator and former Marcos labour minister Blas Ople warned: "The president... has unleashed the sword not of justice but of the avenger."

"This sword, unless restrained by the constitution through the supreme court, can wreak havoc on national unity. This sword is not only for the nation's stability, but also for the security of the president's remaining tenure."

An ode to Jerusalem

By Ibrahim I Qasbi

How, when no more than two scores passed,
That my memory roved in time, stimulated
By stones, when, after being through,
Some miles and few streets and alleys,
The blue sea appeared from such a nook,
From Jaffa, called then "mother of the poor",
A part of land coerced then by Jews
Nay, by paleological doctrines enforced
During this age of decadence — worldwide.
There, I sat breathing the serene, satiated
Air, looking at the waves, looks rhyming
With the inner cadence of the waters. Just then,
A glance escaped from the sea, bestowed a girl,
A foreign young girl, and my fingers gleaned
A pebble to throw it at her. She was sprightly;
The pebble, inanimate. I dropped the pebble
In the sea, and it was lost: the girl, neither.
So many years passed, when his twin, a stone,
Emerging alive, like a giant, one and many,
To enthrall my whole-being, yet with ecstasy:
For, a master stone — shaper reshaped this
Stone, breathed life into it, as did
Man received from God. Alas, the master,
One among Grecian gods, is a martyr who
Breathed life to stone and lost his own.
But no, his life incarnated in so many stones.
The stones' Master has not died, for masters
Of such a great cause, Al-Jihad, are in heaven,
And now, the stones thus alive, are
Talking on this globe, talking to all nations
The story of indignation, of people suppressed,
And yet talking to all one language, but well
Communicated to and comprehended by all languages,
Because that simple stone has a language Universal.
Therefore, for that stone, and many other, with awe
And for the life in them, undivine though, and after
Two years uprising, few lines of Psalmic Exhortation.

I
Bless thee, stones of Jerusalem,
Bless thee, stones of Al-Intifada.
For as the child of Bethlehem
Later uttered condemnation of Judah
You stones uttered the emblem
Of some children, knights of Armadah.
Bless thee Al-Intifada stones of Jerusalem,
Bless thee, Jerusalem stones of Al-Intifada.

II
Bless thee stones, banners of freedom,
In Jerusalem building a new kingdom;
Jerusalem anew, clean of filthy whoredom.
Yet, each stone by itself now seldom.
Misses and Israeli, though not at random
Thrown — nor by kids at ease of serfdom.
Yea, each stone by itself is a kingdom:
Yea, each stone is a banner of freedom.

III
Bless thee stones, now a raging sword
Against profanity in Jerusalem by God abhorred:
Each stone cursing a Jew, inland and abroad.
And each stone next to his brother, all in accord
A wall around Jerusalem, nay — the world;
Building a fort against servitude and fraud,
New wall built by the brave and the bold,
Embracing humankind as did Christ in days old.

IV
Bless thee stones, in the River of Jordan baptised,
Being thus ordained to protect a land monopolised,
Unsurped, and emblazed by some people, uncriticised.
By some false people — from Zion or, Zionised:
Blessed stones our Holy Land must be fertilised.
Our men, women, and children their honour — chastised,
A free country, self-determination, and government — realised,
Blessed stone: fertilise, chastise, realise rights brutalised.

V
Bless thee inanimate stones, how now animate
By the gravity of your native's love, unalterate?
Rolling away from martyrs grave to stipulate,
Like that stone on Jesus tomb, fire innate
In the bosom of innocent creatures so passionate,
Fire like that of the pentecost, a working mate,
Spiritual, among nations, by Heaven undulate,
Fire of resurrection for people suppressed, prostrate.

VI
Bless thee, mate of the Dome of the Rock — stone,
For, as on that Rock a barbarian flow away was drawn.
So shall modern barbarism on this stone off be blown.
Blessed stone, off thee shall martyrs to heaven without moan,
As did Mohammad from the Rock, a path to Heaven known,
Mate of the Rock, with the Sacred Rock, a fate born —
By cosmic process, signs azure implying events anon,
Annihilate inhumane crimes committed by race so — wanton.

VII
Bless thee, stone, articulate decree lasting to eternity —
French Revolution rejuvenated, symbol of the holiest entity,
And blessed sanctuary that binds human kind in fidelity.
Bless thee stone, destined to be the corner stone of Liberty
Bless thee stone, to all nations, the corner stone of Equality:
Whereas the French Revolution failed of base infirmity,
When pervert emotions eclipsed our sublime humanity,
Blessed stone, thou fared, in cradle, by hallowed sanctity.

VIII
Bless thee stone, giving Time dimension and meaning,
Made the Past, the Present, the Future a new breeding,
With Mary's forever dropping tears passionately seeping:
And unity with the blood of Jesus, blood ever bleeding,
Blessed stone, tears, and blood-undevoted bread for eating:
Our soul, mind, and body need that sort of feeding,
Our nutrition for two years past, years to come of heaving.
Blessed stones, your warriors and prophets are speaking.

IX
Yea Blessed stones — from mists and clouds appearing,
A vision, like the chariot of Elijah, from heaven peering
To the Gods of the Olympic a sacred message bearing,
As did Moses received on Mt. Sinai — tables rearing
Commandments — tables, that on a black evening
Stands like pillars of fire, showing our people and leading
Their path away from the wilderness, of pain and weeping
That lasted some forty years, and history itself is repeating.

X
You, endorers of liberty, day and night,
Watch those tiny stones like stars very bright,
Al-Intifada stones glitters, a magnificent sight,
Yet each now but a wailing wall of plight,
For Palestinians here, the diaspora, wherever they fight,
Against the yoke of occupation — brutally tight,
Watch the dawn of freedom on the horizon alight,
By stoney asteroids, gospels of a celestial knight.



Abano Terme, Italy's famous therapeutic centre, lies in the shadows of the Euganean Hills.



One of the open-air swimming pools in Abano Terme.

Abano Terme — Europe's oldest mud therapy centre

ABANO TERME, Italy — A jewel in the countryside of the Euganean hills 42 kilometres away from Venice, Abano Terme is not only the most important mud therapy health resort in Europe but also the oldest in the continent.

Its origins are lost in legend. Its name "A Ponos" is of Greek origin which means "that which removes pain."

It is said that when the Euganean people saw how steam arising from the furrows cut by their ploughs and boiling water gushing from the springs, they realised the therapeutic properties of the water which was able to restore them after a day's hard work.

Religious tendencies led the Euganean people to venerate the natural phenomenon in the person of the God Aponus — "he who removes pain."

Archaeological evidence shows that the ancient Romans built baths in the area at the foot of the hills where Abano Terme now stands.

Abano Terme owes its age-old success to the effectiveness of the treatments carried out there, among which fango (mud) therapy figures high.

Throughout the centuries, the therapeutic properties of thermal treatments have attracted famous personalities such as Petrarch, Shakespeare, Goethe and Mozart to the town, according to?

The area was firmly established as a modern centre for therapeutic tourism in the second half of this century. The thermal water comes from the Small Dolomites; it penetrates the subsoil as far as 3,000 metres and returns to the surface, heated to 87 degrees Centigrade during its slow, 50-year journey underground. As the demand for therapeutic tourism increased, the necessary structures were modified and the medical assistance strengthened.

The age-old tested validity of mud therapy was flanked by scientific studies on the geological nature of the basin. So today, Abano Terme relies on first-rate medical and scientific structures and on tourist as well as health care facilities that make it the most important mud-treatment centre in the world.

The fango treatment is the most characteristic curative element of the Euganean thermal basin. The mud is made up of a solid clay component, a liquid component of spa water and an organic component of algae, bacteria and protozoa.

Before use, the mud is left to undergo a maturing process in special open-air tanks through which runs the spring water, enriching it with mineral salts and stimulates the growth of special algae that are responsible for a large part of its healing properties.

The used mud is collected and regenerated with the same procedure.

Mud treatment produces beneficial therapeutic effects by means of a local pain-relieving action which relaxes and tones up

The organisers — the tourist board and spa hotel association of Abano Terme, Lufthansa German airlines and Fir-Health Travel Frankfurt (Fit Reisen) — the muscles. It also helps in the movement of the joints, increases the blood circulation in the body and accelerates the elimination of the toxic substances produced by diseased tissues.

It is these treatments that make Abano Terme an important place in Italy and Europe, and it was the main reason behind holding the third international health and spa symposium in Abano Terme.

invited famous European medical specialists to speak during the two-day event (Oct. 29-30) about methods of treatment and healing on the basis on natural resources.

Fit Reisen, which initiated the symposium, is the organisation that promotes European therapeutic and health resorts for tourism. "Health fitness is a human need," said Mayor of Abano Terme Armando Gennaro. "Thermalism is part of this treatment."

According to the mayor, who spoke in a press conference after

the symposium, over 250,000 people from all over the world visited Abano Terme in 1988, 45 per cent from West Germany.

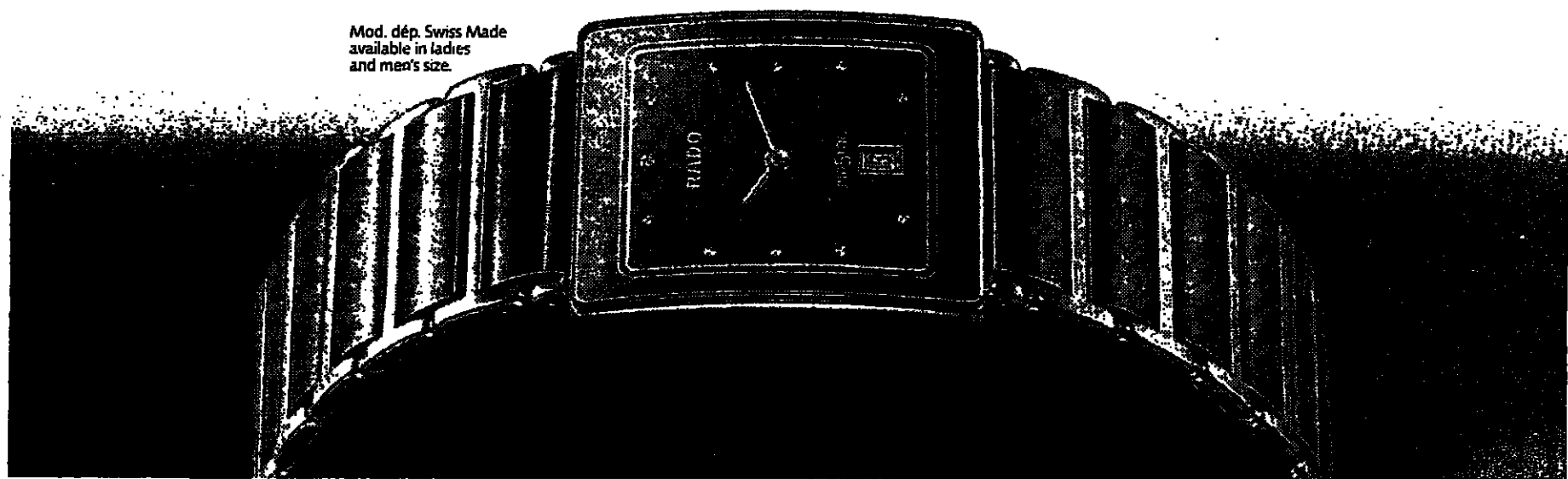
There are over 170 "thermal" hotels in the Euganean basin, each having its own thermal spring. Every hotel is also a treatment clinic.

"We cannot cure every disease by spa treatment," said the mayor, "but we can build up and improve the quality of life not only for our patients but also for people who want to keep fit."

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Conference focuses on financial role in Jordan's future planning, progress

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yarmouk University in Irbid Sunday hosted the first conference on the role of accountancy, financial and banking operations in economic development in Jordan.

Nearly 30 researchers and specialists from Arab and foreign countries are taking part in the three-day meeting which is being held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Standing in for Prince Hassan, Irbid Governor Jawdat Sbaul delivered the opening address underlining the importance of finance and accountancy in the construction and development process in the Kingdom and the role the Jordanian universities

can play in this respect.

Jordan is facing very difficult circumstances and challenges but refuses to capitulate and succumb to pressure and can never retreat from its economic and development programmes designed to help the country and its citizens face the future with greater confidence, Sbaul said in his address.

The university's vice president for administrative affairs, Fouad Al Sheikh Salem, said that the conference is being held at a time when Jordan is in most need of



Arab and foreign financial experts listen to the opening speech Sunday at Yarmouk University.

assistance from Arab and foreign friends to deal with the extraordinary economic situation and the great challenges.

The conference aims to underline the importance of finance and banking operations in the economy, especially for decision makers and planners, according

to Dr. Sayel Ramadan, chairman of the conference's preparatory committee.

He said that the participants would discuss in detail the financial and accountancy problems encountered by various organisations and will suggest possible solutions for them as well as ways

to encourage research work in these fields.

Yarmouk University officials said that the meeting would focus attention on the role of accountancy in development, the contributions of banks and financial institutions towards stimulating the national economy especially in planning matters and controls.



The Jordanian and Sudanese delegations confer before concluding a new trade agreement (Petra, photo)

Jordan, Sudan further cement economic ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Sudanese joint economic committee which started sessions here Saturday has agreed on broad lines for increasing the volume of exchanged goods and on boosting the role of trade exhibitions and trade centres to promote bilateral trade exchanges.

Agreement came at a committee held at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Amman Sunday during which the two sides discussed principles of trade exchanges, exemptions of customs duty and types of commodities to be exchanged, according to a statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said that the two sides also discussed other matters related to the implementation of a bilateral trade protocol signed earlier by the two countries. Among other specific matters discussed, Petra added, was the sale of Jordanian cement to Sudan. Sudan, according to the agency, had earlier expressed desire to import cement and the Jordan Cement Factories company has decided to set up a silo in Sudan where it can store the Jordanian cement prior to marketing the product in the African country.

The Sudanese team Saturday met with Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Fariz to discuss general trade matters with Jordan and means of implementing the 1988 trade protocol between them.

Turkey's recent current account surplus, unexpected in a country which has been in deficit since 1973.

After last year's \$1.5 billion surplus, Turkey expects at least another billion dollars' surplus this year.

Central bank foreign currency reserves are now at some \$4 billion, nearly double the end-1988 figure.

New export markets are vital to spur Turkey's foreign trade, stagnant due to a low lira depreciation against other hard currencies this year and the phasing out of tax rebates.

But bankers say exports have performed well despite such negative factors. A two per cent fall in the first nine-month exports over the same 1988 period is less than feared.

Eximbank credits will also serve to diversify Turkey's export markets now dominated by the European Community (EC) countries, bankers said.

Turkey offers credits to Poland, Hungary

ANKARA (R) — As the iron curtain crumbles between East and West Europe, Turkey's Eximbank is offering tempting credits for Polish and Hungarian buyers in line with similar deals for the Soviet Union.

Turgay Ozkan, Eximbank general manager, told Reuters loans of around \$100-\$200 million had been suggested to Warsaw and Budapest through foreign ministry channels for purchase of Turkish goods.

"The crumbling of walls just speeded up our plans — we were

thinking of credits for Hungary and Poland anyway," Ozkan said.

Turkey's Eximbank has agreed two \$150 million export finance credits for Moscow and further \$100 million loans were likely in coming months.

Moscow is interested in buying Turkish goods ranging from detergents to textiles, from leather jackets to shoes.

It has spent \$80 million out of the total \$300 million on pharmaceuticals, Ozkan said.

The Soviet Union will also receive \$350 million in Eximbank loans with a likely term of between five to seven years to finance some 15 turkey projects by Turkish companies.

Such turnkey projects, expected to start late in 1990, will include food processing, hotels and light industry.

Trade in 1989 between NATO-member Turkey and the Soviet Union is expected to reach a billion dollars — more than double the 1985 level — to double again next year and reach \$4 billion within a couple of years, officials said.

China has been offered \$200 million worth of export credits, Jordan \$50 million and Syria \$20 million. Algeria has accepted between \$100-\$200 million and Iraq and Libya have been offered \$300 million worth each.

"These are all implementing our policy of getting into new markets," Ozkan said.

The export credit offers follow

Argentina rations sales of gasoline

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — President Carlos Menem reaffirmed his anti-inflation programme Saturday after the Argentine government rationed petrol sales and fired hundreds of train drivers who went on strike.

Five of the country's six state-owned railway lines came to a halt after 300 drivers were dismissed for joining a strike for higher pay Thursday. Menem told strikers "to keep in mind that many Argentines are looking for jobs."

Menem's five-month-old administration reacted strongly to signs of lack of public confidence as its July 9 economic programme faltered.

"The economic plan continues in force," Menem told reporters. "We are on the right path... and I repeat we will need major surgery without anaesthesia, at least two-and-a-half to three years to start seeing the fruits of our toil."

Menem took office amid the country's worst-ever economic crisis. A wave of food riots killed at least 14 people in late May and early June.

In scenes reminiscent of the earlier crisis, shoppers last week jammed into supermarkets and motorists rushed to fill up their cars' tanks on reports that prices would leap after the government adjusted its economic programme.

The government late Friday limited petrol sales to 10 litres for customer and ordered refineries to fill petrol orders. Filling station owners, fearing wholesale price increases and worries about dwindling supplies, had

threatened to shut down for four days.

While the Peronist programme intended to drive monthly inflation down to two per cent in December, private economists say it will be at least 10 per cent, up from November's 6.5 per cent.

On the financial side, banks from Japan, Britain and Argentina agreed to establish a joint investment company to help finance debt-ridden Argentina and assist in the privatisation of former government-owned firms, officials have said.

Japan's Bank of Tokyo, Britain's Midland Bank and Argentina's Banco Rio de La Plata signed an agreement in New York to establish a new investment company, the Argentina Private Development Trust Co. (APDTC), said a Bank of Tokyo official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The three banks will invest equally in the \$300 million firm, which will open its doors January 1990, the official said.

As the first joint venture between Argentina and foreign banks, APDTC will be financed by the debt equity conversion method. Under that method, Argentina's central bank will pay the company in australs, the Argentine currency unit, and then APDTC will sell discounted government bonds. This will help reduce some of the country's debt, the official said.

Argentina has suffered annual inflation of 332 per cent, and the nation has a foreign debt of \$56 billion.

Libyans drain treasury

TRIPOLI (R) — An economic relaxation in Libya, aimed at defusing political discontent after years of austerity, has left the country living beyond its means and facing a delicate balancing act for at least two years, economists say.

Official figures show the trade balance swung into deficit last year for the first time since at least 1973 and foreign reserves have tumbled.

The balance on services also took a turn for the worse as hundreds of thousands of Libyans took advantage of easier rules on foreign travel. More than a million, about a quarter of the population, visited Tunisia alone in 1988.

Diplomats say Colonel Muammar Gaddafi had to let more goods into the country and more Libyans out because dissatisfaction with economic conditions was about to develop into a political crisis.

Austerity was imposed in the early 1980s with a drop in the world price of oil, Libya's main source of foreign exchange.

With oil prices still relatively weak, Libya will have to keep dipping into foreign reserves over the next two years to meet the demand for imports and travel abroad, economists said.

According to figures made available to Reuters, Libya ran up a trade deficit in 1988 of \$173 million after a surplus in 1987 of \$363 million.

Imports in 1988 cost \$220 million more than in 1987.

The deficit on the services account grew by \$700 million while revenue from oil exports fell \$320 million.

The result was a current account deficit of \$2.25 billion, compared with \$1.02 billion in 1987. Both were financed entirely by foreign exchange reserves accumulated when oil prices were high.

Foreign economists estimate that a slight rise in oil prices and a higher Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) sales quota in the first half of 1990 — 1.233 million barrels per day (b/d) against 1.149 b/d currently — will give Tripoli some respite.

Next year's current account deficit should fall to about \$1.2 billion.

But even that would wipe out almost a third of the country's net foreign reserves of \$3.83 billion at the end of 1988, the economists say.

Officials have said the drain on reserves is likely to be only \$500 million a year. But the estimate came before September celebrations of the 20th anniversary of Gaddafi's 1969 revolution, which cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Foreign economists have estimated that net foreign reserves could dwindle to just \$200 million by 1991.

"The challenge currently facing the authorities is to achieve a more open and efficient economic order without causing unacceptable reserve losses," a recent International Monetary Fund report on Libya said.

"In the event of persistent reserve losses, the validity of the liberalisation process could come into question amid calls for its reversal," it added.

Reforms begun last year encouraged limited private enter-

prise after years of tight state control of the economy.

The 1989 budget set aside 150 million dinars (about \$510 million) for imports by individuals and partnerships. Diplomats said some officials were diverting allocations to friends and relatives.

Under government decrees this year, only gold, tobacco, medicines, insecticides, petroleum products and some foodstuffs will remain state import monopolies.

Private businessmen might also be allowed to import goods with their own foreign exchange — a revolutionary step which implicitly recognises the existence of a black market in hard currencies.

But the scope of economic reform is limited. An official document obtained by Reuters this month indicated Tripoli will not allow capitalist-style companies to emerge.

Tripoli is also reluctant to devalue the dinar to encourage exports and scrap price controls, measures recommended by foreign economic advisers.

"We are satisfied with the way the exchange rate system works but will review it if the need arises," an official said.

Diplomats said reservations about the private sector were holding back the break up of the monopoly on imports enjoyed by big state corporations.

Some corporation officials had been making profits on the side and did not want to give these up to a new class of professional businessmen, the diplomats said.

Libya says that, in line with past practice, it will not borrow from abroad. The country has no external debt.

Modrow details economic woes, sets up commission

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Premier Hans Modrow has appointed a government commission to review economic overhaul, listing slow economic growth and an enormous foreign debt of \$20.6 billion among the increasing threats to the East German economy.

Modrow appointed the commission Saturday, just hours after taking part in a marathon Communist Party session that elected Gregor Gysi the new party chairman.

The reformist premier offered an unusually blunt assessment of the economy, once considered the model for Eastern Europe.

Modrow told reporters the economy also has been hit by consumer shortages and price hikes in a country where inflation until recently was officially almost non-existent.

The foreign debt for each of East Germany's 16.3 million people works out to about \$12,600.

East German leaders are studying various methods to improve production, ranging from loosening central planning controls to attracting more foreign investment.

West Germany has offered East Germany massive financial aid, if East Germany goes forward with its reform programme and embarks on a course towards a free market economy.

However, the East Berlin government rejects the introduction of free market elements, saying that would ruin the country's identity as a socialist system.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann is to travel to East Berlin Thursday

and, according to the Hamburg-based news magazine Der Spiegel, will be carrying a financial aid plan with him.

The plan's steps range from greater numbers of East German craftsmen working in West Germany to financial guarantees for East Germany's foreign trade, according to Der Spiegel.

Earlier Saturday, the Communist Party apologised for leading the country into crisis.

Meanwhile, according to an army reservist, thousands of military conscripts are working in East German factories and mines to fill jobs left vacant by this year's mass exodus of young workers to the West.

The reservist, a private interviewed by Reuters during a one-day visit to West Berlin, could give no figure for the total number of conscripts assigned to industry.

"But half the beds in my barracks are empty," he said. He is doing three months' reserve duty in an artillery barracks near East Berlin which normally houses 3,000-4,000 men. The East German armed forces have 178,000 men.

The private said many reservists had been called back into service to compensate for a low birth rate in the early 1970s, which has reduced the number of conscripts available for the 18 months' basic training done by all East German men.

He said the conscripts were delighted to be assigned to unskilled work in factories and even in mines since they were billeted with civilian families, had their evenings free and got a wage of

100-150 marks (\$55-\$80) a month on top of their basic army pay of 150 marks.

"It's a lot better than in barracks," he said.

The army does pretty well out of it too, he added. A factory that is short of, say, 50 workers concludes a contract with the local army barracks for the supply of 50 conscripts for three or four months.

Each man gets 100-150 marks from the factory. The balance of what the factory would have paid a regular employee, perhaps 600 marks (\$320), would go to the army.

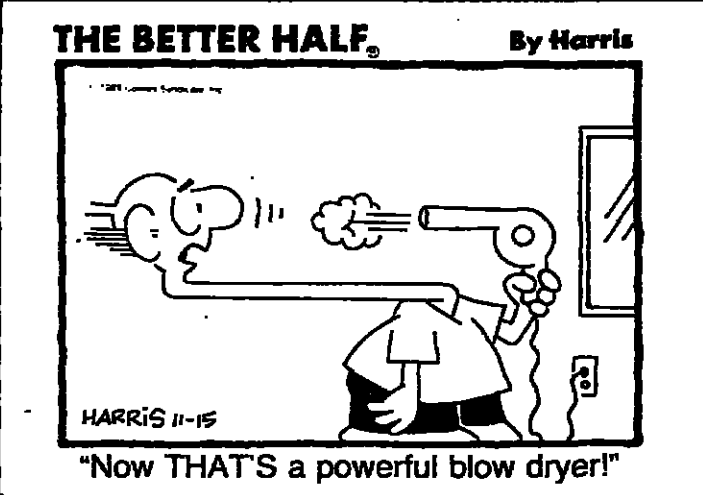
The reservist said the political liberalisation of the past six weeks had been welcomed by the rank and file. The two days of political indoctrination a month have been scrapped.

New regulations permit the wearing of civilian clothes off duty and unrestricted travel, even to Western countries. When they cross to West Germany soldiers can, like any other East Germans, pick up the Bonn government's 100-mark "welcome money" payment.

But the changes have also aroused discontent. "Imagine a battalion of 1,000 men," he said. "They all want to go across to West Berlin or West Germany on a visit straight away. But they can't all get leave at once. The ones that wait get pretty fed up."

One consolation — in future East German soldiers will be allowed to watch West German television.

Feelings in the officer corps about the changes are mixed, the private believed.



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KNITH
PEROW
SURJIT
VURSCY

DOES YOUR WIFE PICK YOUR CLOTHES?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "THE CLOTHES"

Peanuts

THE FAMOUS WORLD WAR I FLYING ACE LOOKS LONELY..

WOULD IT HELP IF I HELD HIS PAW FOR AWHILE?

LIKE MAYBE UNTIL 1918?

Mutt'n' Jeff

HE'S A SWORD SWALLOWER! HE USED TO COME IN HERE AND EAT PEAS WITH HIS KNIFE AND SWALLOW THE KNIFE!

OF COURSE, THERE'S A TRICK TO IT! HE SHOWED ME HOW IT'S DONE SO THAT NIGHT I TRIED IT IN FRONT OF COMPANY!

WELL, HOW DID THE TRICK TURN OUT?

WELL, IT WASN'T EXACTLY PERFECT BUT THOSE TONSILS HAD TO COME OUT ANYWAY!

Capp

ANY CHANCE OF ME GETTING INTO THE DARTS TEAM, ANDY?

COULD BE, PERCY.

I'M NOT GOING TO LIVE FOREVER

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES	
Sunday, December 10, 1989 Central Bank official rates	
US Dollar	1.00 = 1.00
French Franc	106.3 107.4

Italy delighted with World Cup draw

By Paul Radford
Renter

ROME — Italians basked in early World Cup glory on Sunday, delighted with the draw for next year's finals which gave them the best possible start to their quest for a record fourth triumph.

The Italian Sunday newspaper La Gazzetta Sportiva ran a front page banner headline saying "Italy 3-0" (Italy three goals) to celebrate a draw which put them in the weakest of the six four-nation first round groups.

There was widespread praise for the lucky hands of film star

Sophia Loren, composer of the official World Cup Song Giorgio Moroder and Opera singer Luciano Pavarotti who drew three modest opponents for Italy in the United States, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

The host nation will play all their first round matches in Rome and have every chance of winning group A and staying in the capital until the semifinal stage of the competition.

Italian trainer Azezio Vicini was guarded about his team's chances but the smile on his face betrayed immense satisfaction. "I'm glad we're not in a difficult, even group," he said. "It could

have been much worse."

If fate seemed less kind to the tournament when the nations with the two worst records of hooliganism, England and the Netherlands, were drawn together in group F, there was surprisingly little official concern.

The two countries will meet on June 16 in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari in potentially the most explosive match of the tournament and a repeat of their ill-

fated clash at the European championship in Dusseldorf, West Germany, last year.

Despite a massive turnout of riot police and strict segregation of rival supporters, there were almost 500 arrests and large-scale damage to the city centre in outbreaks of violence before the match.

The trouble was later blamed largely on West German youths who attacked the notorious En-

glish fans.

World Cup organisers kept a low profile on the problem. "It is not the end of the world. It is one of 52 matches," International Football Federation (FIFA) spokesman Guido Tognoni said.

Privately, officials expressed the view that even if they would have preferred the English and Dutch not to meet, a match on Sardinia offered the best chance of containing trouble.

The Dutch will be based in Palermo, Sicily, and their fans can travel to the game only by air or sea, giving police a better chance of controlling their movements in Sardinia.

The island authorities also said they were happy to receive the English and Dutch, along with Ireland and Egypt, and did not anticipate problems.

Socrates criticises new Brazil

By Timothy Collings
Renter

ROME — Brazil have lost touch with their soccer traditions and may even lose the loyalty of their colourful World Cup fans, former star Socrates has warned.

Socrates, a leading player in the Brazilian teams at the 1982 and 1986 finals, believes current coach Sebastiao Lazaroni's European-style tactics will prevent the familiar Brazilian skills from blossoming fully in Italy next June.

"There is not enough pure fantasy in the team. There has been a change in style and the players have learned a lot of new tactics from playing abroad," Socrates said after Saturday's draw for next year's World Cup finals.

"I do not like it much myself and I am sure most Brazilians will feel the same. Our football is about freedom and imagination within a tactical framework but this new system is too rigid."

For years, Brazil have been synonymous with "the beautiful game" and their samba skills have fit up virtually all the world cup tournaments since their first triumph in Sweden in 1958.

Twice in the past, in West Germany in 1974 and in Argentina in 1978, the Brazilians attempted to switch to more defensive tactics and both tournaments ended with their reputation tarnished.

It was the re-emergence of their more familiar imaginative, attacking style under veteran coach Tele Santana in Spain in 1982, when Socrates and Zico starred, which brought back their prestige.

"For me, that Brazilian team in 1982 was the best I have played in

and also produced the best matches," said Socrates. "The game with Italy, when we lost 3-2, was the best of my career and will always be remembered by everyone who was there."

"It was a fantasy game for us all and we shall never forget it. That is how I feel Brazil should be seen."

"Football is above all a show so, from that point of view, when

you have a spectacular match, it is fine."

Socrates said he believed Brazil had the players to do well again in the finals.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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TAKE THE SURE-TRICK LINE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 9 5 3
♥ 7 4
♦ K J
♣ 8 4 2

EAST
♠ 7
♥ 9 8 6 2
♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ 10 7 6 3

SOUTH
♠ K J 10 6 2
♥ J 5
♦ A Q 10
♣ A J

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass
6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

Had Shakespeare been a bridge aficionado, he might have written about the ages of a player. At first the infant, trying to master the intricacies of the finesse. Then the lover, beaming from ear to ear as half of his tenacious positions produces an extra trick. And then the expert, wriggling like an eel to try to avoid having to take a finesse. And so each one plays his part.

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

- Leads slowly
- Kind of party
- Copied
- Ma Oakley
- Via for short
- Altitude of
- Fraternal organization
- War god
- Makes eyes at
- Sleep like
- Kind of ante
- Plane place
- Court figure
- Get-up-and-go
- Pasture sound
- Modena money
- Miller of 24A
- Prayer beads
- Those with power
- Envelope abbr.
- Sault — Marie
- Religious
- Cozy corner
- Rent out
- Creal
- Set
- How — you?
- Friend's terms
- Lily maid
- Fine meal
- Stargate
- Frog's perch
- Familiar with
- The fuzz
- "Gaudin"
- author
- Seed covering
- Army gp.
- Go-between
- Fad
- A Lancaster
- Beginners

DOWN

- West Coast shrub
- Gay
- Vest in
- Kid's vault
- Perceive
- Take the lead
- Wolf's quarry
- How — you?
- Some wells
- In with
- Transport
- Ma Raines
- Do
- Supplicate
- Paraphernalia
- Corn unit
- Death
- array?
- Healing plant
- Army gp.
- Call
- Indian
- The player's son did
- Muppet
- Observed
- Playtime
- Cage dweller
- Summer drink
- Sidick
- Hose thread
- Wrath
- Dictator's aide
- Legal wrongs
- Blamish
- "A Doll's House" heroine
- Movie dog
- Kissman: abbr.
- Corrode

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

- Leads slowly
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SPORTS IN BRIEF

LUTON AGREE MILLION-POUND DEAL FOR WEGERLE:

The transfer of Luton striker Roy Wegerle to fellow English first division club Queens Park Rangers for £1 million (\$1.6 million) is expected to be completed on Monday. Luton manager Ray Harford said Saturday he was sorry to see the South African-born player go out "a million pounds is a lot of money and we decided to take it."

BRELAND STOPS OZAKI: Mark Breland of the United States retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight title Sunday by stopping Japanese challenger Fujio Ozaki in the fourth round of their scheduled 12-round fight. Panamanian referee Julio Cesar Alvarado stopped the fight 35 seconds into the round after a doctor examined a copiously bleeding cut which opened up above Ozaki's right eye in the third round. It was the champion's third defence of the title he wrested from South Korean Lee Seung-Soon last February.

PASSPORT MISSING

I. Narinder Singh from India have lost passport No. 470569 issued 10 April 1988.

Finders please contact Post Box 4589

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Dear Friend,

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Just send us the name and address of anyone who might be interested in having a more productive and rewarding future. We will send them complete information on any one of our home-study courses listed below. The information is FREE and there's NO OBLIGATION.

Easy as 1-2-3

1. Start off by writing down a list of all your friends, neighbors, relatives, or anyone you work with who might be interested in home-study career training.

2. Go over the list carefully. Pick out the names of people you think would be most interested in one of the home-study courses listed below. Look for ambitious people who want to get ahead in life and enjoy better jobs and higher pay.

3. Print the names of your friends who are interested on the right of this form, and give us each person's complete address. Also, tell us the name of the course they are interested in. We will send them literature with full information on the course. Then, tell your friend to watch for details on an exciting opportunity. There's no obligation.

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- 61 Accounting
- 62 Business Management with option in Marketing
- 63 Business Management with option in Finance
- 64 Computer Programming
- 65 U.S. High School Diploma
- 66 Catering/General Cooking
- 67 Medical/Dental Office Assistant
- 68 Microcomputer Repair
- 69 Hotel/Restaurant Management
- 70 Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
- 71 Interior Decorating
- 72 Fashion Merchandising
- 73 Motorcycle Repair
- 74 Surveying & Mapping
- 75 Fitness & Nutrition
- 76 Wildlife Conservation
- 77 Veterinary Assistant
- 78 Digital Electronics
- 79 Building Trades
- 80 General Business
- 81 Practical English

CAREER DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

- 82 Small Engine Repair
- 83 Auto Mechanics
- 84 Bookkeeping
- 85 Electronics
- 86 Electricity
- 87 Police Science
- 88 Art
- 89 Legal Secretary
- 90 Diesel Mechanics
- 91 TWIC Super
- 92 Child Day Care
- 93 Drafting
- 94 Travel Agent
- 95 Automobile
- 96 Machine Shop
- 97 Journalism/Short Story Writing
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CONCORD

BOOL DURHAM

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

TWO MOON JUNCTION

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

Nadia Al Jundi In TERRORISM (Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 674111

PLAZA

Jack Nicholson & Kim Basinger BATMAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Gorbachev willing to dilute party monopoly

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said the Communist Party would resist attempts to diminish its authority but held out the possibility that constitutional guarantees of its leading role in society could be scrapped.

Calling the party the guarantor of his perestroika reform programme, Gorbachev told the policy-making central committee Saturday that demands for an immediate end to the party's legally-enshrined monopoly on power were premature.

And he said the country's economic woes, while grave, were being exploited for political gain.

"The Central Committee will resolutely fight attempts to downgrade the importance of the party and to undermine its authority with working people," Gorbachev said, in remarks carried by the official TASS news agency.

In the framework of this process, any article (of the constitution) can be the subject of modification or be excluded. This fully refers as well to Article 6," Gorbachev said.

Article 6 of the 1977 constitution guarantees the 20-million-member party the "leading and guiding" role in Soviet public life. It has become a matter of fierce debate as disenchantment with the party's grip on power grows

and fast-developing reform movements sweep through the Soviet allies in East Europe.

Hungary has dropped the name "Communist" from the party's name and is preparing for multi-party elections. Poland has installed a non-communist prime minister, Czechoslovakia was to announce a non-communist-dominated government Sunday and East Germany recently repealed the communists' monopoly on power.

On Thursday, Lithuania became the first of the 15 constituent Soviet republics to drop a constitutional guarantee of communist supremacy. Lawmakers in another Baltic republic, Estonia, will consider establishing a multi-party system Dec. 15.

Human rights activist Andrei Sakharov and several other members of the Congress of People's Deputies parliament have called a two-hour general strike Monday, the day before the congress convenes, to show popular support for removing the party clause from the national constitution.

Gorbachev hotly denied Article 6 had hindered greater democratisation of Soviet life since he came to power in March 1985. In an obvious reference to Sakharov, a Nobel Peace laureate, Gorbachev said those demanding its urgent revocation were trying to

"demoralise communists, lower their activity at a turning point in perestroika."

"We must not create a new constitution until we have more or less clearly defined the contours of the renewed social mechanism, the optimal structure of organs of power and administration, the order of interaction of political forces," Gorbachev countered.

The 58-year-old Soviet leader did not use the expression "political parties," but was clearly sketching out a role in Soviet public life for groups not controlled by communists.

So-called informal organisations have proliferated in the more tolerant climate introduced by Gorbachev.

Baltic elections
Candidates nominated by grassroots people's fronts organisations are widely expected Sunday to beat many communists in nationwide elections to fill municipal councils held in Estonia and Latvia.

In Estonia, more than 9,000 candidates are vying to fill 4,200 seats in city and rural councils throughout the Soviet Union's least populous republic with 1.6 million inhabitants.

Polls show the most popular candidates are environmentalists, or Greens, with ethnic Estonians favouring the People's Front and

the Russians favouring workers' associations with close links to communists.

"But if both ethnic and non-ethnic Estonians are considered, our opinion polls indicate 50 per cent support for the Greens — by far the best support. The communists would get under 10 per cent," said Juhan Kivirahk, from Estonia's department of public opinion and market research.

In Latvia, Imans Daudis, a secretary of the top government executive body, the presidium, called Sunday's vote "the first public life for groups not controlled by communists."

Only 34 per cent of the candidates in the republic of more than 2.5 million people are members of the Communist Party, while 32 per cent are members of the People's Front.

In March elections for the new Soviet parliament, People's Front candidates trounced party-backed candidates in races across all three Baltic states.

Of the other Latvian candidates, 18 per cent belong to the Agricultural Union, which seeks independence and private ownership of land, and 1.8 per cent to Interfront, an organisation protecting the rights of ethnic Russians and other immigrants. Daudis said all the groups can be virtually described as fledgling political parties.

Activists reject de Klerk reforms

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A major conference of South African anti-apartheid groups has rejected President F.W. de Klerk's reform programme and vowed to continue the struggle against racial segregation.

A declaration issued at the end of the first day of the conference said blacks were ready to negotiate with the white government, but only when it showed it was serious.

Nearly 5,000 delegates from all over the country met to discuss de Klerk's moves to reform apartheid and offer to negotiate some form of power-sharing arrangement with the voteless black majority.

"De Klerk has done nothing which convinces us that he is genuine. There are no actions to back up his vague promises," Saturday's declaration said.

It added that de Klerk would have to create the necessary conditions before negotiations could begin. It was not specific about what the conditions were, but elsewhere the statement said apartheid would have to be completely dismantled.

The banned nationalist movement, the African National Congress, has long counted the abolition of the land, group areas and population registration acts — cornerstones of South Africa's racial segregation — among preconditions for negotiations.

"We cannot and will not wait until de Klerk is ready. Our struggle to dismantle apartheid and exploitation and to build a democratic future will go on," the declaration said.

The statement dismissed reforms, including the release of political prisoners and relaxation of restrictions on public protest, undertaken by the president since he came to power following segregated elections in September.

"The strategic objective of the regime remains that of reshaping apartheid to make it palatable to the South African people and the international community. More importantly, the clear intention is to protect the privileges of the white minority," it said.

"We will continue to resist apartheid, even defy and dismantle it, whatever the cost. We will build the maximum unity among all anti-apartheid forces. We will continue to demand that the international community intensify its efforts to isolate the de Klerk government."

The conference, organised by trade unions, church and other organisations who make up the mass democratic movement, involves a broad range of anti-apartheid groups, from youth and student congresses to tribal homeland leaders.

Some of the groups are restricted under South Africa's three-year-old state of emergency regulations, and their representatives defied orders to speak to the meeting, held in a sports hall at Johannesburg's Witwatersrand University.

Hunt launched for Manila coup leaders

MANILA (Agencies) — The Philippine military has launched a big manhunt for missing army coup leaders who apparently escaped when their men surrendered, a military spokesman said Sunday.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa told reporters the military was asking President Corason Aquino to offer cash rewards for the turning in of rebel leaders who staged the sixth and most serious attempt to topple her.

Armed forces spokesman Oscar Florendo said about 1,800 rebel officers and men have surrendered since the coup was finally snuffed out in Manila last Thursday.

Still on the loose are several of the top men involved in the six-day coup, including cashed-in Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, leader of the last coup attempt against Aquino in August 1987.

The officers are members of the "Reform the Armed Forces

Movement" (RAM), which accused Aquino of mismanaging the country, tolerating corruption among her relatives, appointing incompetent ministers and of being soft on a 20-year communist insurgency.

Aquino, meanwhile, vowed never to "let evil triumph" against democracy.

Rebel soldiers Saturday surrendered their last stronghold at an air base at Cebu city.

Air Force Chief Major-General Jose de Leon said the rebel leader at the Mactan air base, Brigadier General Jose Comendador, surrendered late Saturday to regional commander Brig. Gen. Renato Palma and was under investigation.

On Sunday, Aquino travelled by helicopter to Batangas city, 80 kilometres south of Manila, for the funeral of Major Daniel Atienza. Atienza's F-5 jet was shot down Dec. 1 during an air raid on rebel positions at the Sangley Point air-naval base, southwest of the capital.

Speaking at a gymnasium, Aquino said: "I promise you that I will continue to serve the Filipino people, and I will offer every moment of my life, and I shall never let evil triumph."

About 200 presidential security guards surrounded the gymnasium and snipers were stationed on the roofs of nearby buildings.

Aquino told reporters later that about 3,000 of the 160,000-member armed forces had joined the mutiny.

"Only two per cent of the armed forces were against us but still we have to make sure that those who are guilty will be meted out the full penalties," Aquino said.

De Villa said other senior officers being hunted included Commodore Domingo Calajate, former chief of the military logistics command, Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, former chief of the constabulary command in the western Visayas Islands, and Navy Captain Felix Turingan.

Salvador president offers negotiations with rebels

SAN SALVADOR (Agencies) — Salvadorean President Alfredo Cristiani, in his first peace offer since leftist guerrillas launched a major offensive last month, has offered negotiations with the rebels if they would agree to stop making attacks affecting civilians.

Softening his previous stance that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) must lay down its arms for serious talks to take place, Cristiani said Saturday he was not demanding that the rebels stop attacking military targets.

"The government is ready to restart the process of dialogue on condition that the FMLN announces publicly that it will stop all terrorist actions, especially

those affecting the civilian population," he told a news conference.

Cristiani's concessions appeared to be a victory for the rebels who launched a major offensive Nov. 11 partly to strengthen their negotiating position and show they were not a spent military force, political analysts said.

"Cristiani has to pursue peace because he can't do anything with the country as it is," one Western diplomat said. "Whether the FMLN accepts or not depends on how they see their military strength and what they consider civilian targets."

If the guerrillas agreed to stop attacks involving civilians by Dec. 15, Cristiani said, his government

was willing to meet FMLN representatives in Venezuela Dec. 20 to discuss ending the 10-year-old civil war which has killed more than 70,000 people.

He also announced a \$250,000 cash reward, protection and immunity for anyone providing information or evidence that will lead to the arrest and conviction of responsible for the Nov. 16 massacre of six prominent Jesuit priest-educators, their cook and her teenage daughter.

Some Jesuits have blamed government soldiers for the killings. Any person or persons who, against their will or unwittingly, took part indirectly in this who provides relevant information that can clarify this crime will be awarded (the money), Cristiani said.



Standing in line... Vietnamese boat people queue presently in the colony awaiting relocation overseas with all their belongings for relocation to a Hong Kong of repatriation. Over 50,000 Vietnamese are

Boat people brawl amid rising tension, gloom

HONG KONG, (R) — A 25-year-old man was beaten to death with iron bars Sunday morning as tension rose in Hong Kong's crowded Vietnamese boat people camps on fears of an imminent start to forced repatriation.

Police said the man was killed and three youths were injured as two gangs battled with iron bars Sunday morning at Whitehead Camp in Hong Kong's New Territories.

A senior Western diplomat who follows refugee affairs said Britain and Hong Kong were still discussing arrangements for what he called the orderly return of people whose appeals for refugee status have been rejected by the government here.

"The two sides are discussing arrangements and will do up until the moment the first group leaves. The target is still mid-December, but there's no specific date as far as I am aware," he said.

He said press reports that forced repatriation was to get under way Sunday were incorrect but added that it would happen sooner rather than later. Workers in the camps, where some 57,000 boat people are held, say morale is deteriorating daily as people hear reports of plans to return most of them forcibly to the land they risked death to leave.

"Every day at 2 p.m. in Whitehead they all demonstrate, waving clenched fists in the air and showing banners. The banners

say things like 'better dead than red' and 'freedom, where are you?'" a camp worker said.

Other slogans included "Hong Kong — our today is your tomorrow," a reference to 1997, when China is due to regain sovereignty over the free-wheeling capitalist British colony.

Hong Kong is determined to start sending back those boat people that have failed to prove they are genuine refugees under United Nations criteria so as to try and avert another influx when weather conditions in the South China Sea improve.

This year has seen 34,000 boat people arrive, the bulk of them in the period between February and August.

Hong Kong has tried various methods of deterring the boat people over the years, including closed camps — where they retained refugee status but were kept in prison-like conditions, and a tough screening policy introduced in June last year.

Of the 57,000 here, 13,000 are considered genuine refugees because they arrived before screening was introduced last year. The remaining 44,000 are considered illegal immigrants, to be held pending repatriation unless they can prove a genuine fear of persecution.

So far some 6,000 have been screened and only 400 have been granted refugee status, allowed to stay while efforts are made to arrange resettlement in a third country.

Diplomatic sources said that

when forced repatriation — now referred to as "mandatory return" by British and Hong Kong officials in agreement with Hanoi's wish to be accused of involvement in human rights violations — started it would be with a small group, flown back to Hanoi aboard a chartered aircraft.

Hong Kong government officials are expected to keep the date and time of the departure a secret, and are maintaining a strict news blackout on the forced repatriation.

"The last thing they want is the sight of people being dragged protesting aboard a plane. Hanoi's cooperation would evaporate if that happened," said a diplomat.

The first group is expected to come from the 51 boat people, all screened out, who have been held at a special high security prison called Phoenix House, where aid workers say morale is shattered by word that they are to be sent back.

Britain is keen to see the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) involved in monitoring the treatment of those returned.

The UNHCR has rejected any suggestion that it play a part, and Vietnam has promised returnees will not be persecuted.

"The problem is there are so many rumours flying round, both in and out of the camps, that the wretched people inside are now prepared to believe anything," said a diplomat.



The wreckage of a plane which crashed near the El Salvador border last week. In the foreground are the bodies of two four men who were on the plane. The Salvador government has said that the plane was carrying Nicaraguan-supplied surface-to-air missiles destined for Salvador rebels

Hard up for a date? 'Rent a gent' in New York

By Andrea Privitera Reuters

NEW YORK — How can a woman go on an expenses-paid dream date with an eligible bachelor of her choice, with no strings attached, all for a worthy cause?

Rent one for charity. In recent years, various charities around the United States have been organising "bachelor bids" or "rent-a-gent" parties as part of their fund-raising efforts.

They generally target single professional women who can afford to bid for a date with one of a group of carefully screened bachelors. Those who can't afford to bid or prefer not to can still go to the party and watch the action for a modest admission fee.

The bidding usually starts at about \$50. Most bachelors "sell

for between \$200 and \$600 but some have fetched \$1,500 for the charities. The bids, actually donations, are tax-deductible.

"It's a fun event, and in a lot of areas it works very well," said Phil Bonfiglio, national director of special events for the American Cancer Society.

More than 150 women attended a recent auction in New York to benefit the Cooley's Anemia Foundation.

"I think women realise that the traditional ways of meeting men are out," said Joan Antonello, who works with the foundation. "You have to do something new in the 1990s. You have to use your imagination. And I don't think any of these women feel threatened."

Most of the women at the Cooley's Anemia auction said they participated for fun, as well as for the remote possibility of

meeting someone. "It's a kick. I just think it's fun," said one woman, who identified herself only as Dale.

Another woman had a more traditional point of view. "I don't pay for any man to take me out," said Susan Rogers. "I just came to watch."

The charities try to recruit established or prominent men to participate. "They are usually pretty stable people in the community — who have a lot to lose if they misbehave," said Faetz.

In order to safeguard against a potential scandalous plant bid, the bachelors must be in the audience.

"If no one bids on them, you've lost them," Faetz said of the bachelors, adding that, fortunately, the plants don't have to jump in very often.

Interestingly, none of the

foundations holds auctions of women because the perception is that the public would not approve.

"I think people want to stay away from that because of the mores of the time," said Faetz.

Bonfiglio added, "I don't know if the perception of bachelor auctions is even kosher (appropriate) — but auctioning women off definitely doesn't seem kosher."

According to Helene Daly Attanasio, a volunteer for Cooley's Anemia, bachelor auctions are eminently appropriate.

"Women have been exploited for years. It's about time men were exploited," she said.

It may be clear why the women want to participate, but the men don't get a choice. They go to the highest bidder.

The men could more easily write a check in order to benefit a

worthy cause. So why do they do it?

Some bachelors seem to enjoy the show of it all, parading around on stage. A few go as far as unbuckling their shirts to try to drive up the bidding.

But one man had another reason. "Everyone wonders where they fit in — the actual dollar value. It's a rare chance to find out," said Charles Leershen, a writer for Newsweek magazine who was recruited by Cooley's Anemia. "Now I've found out. I'm worth \$475."

Leershen added: "And this sort of turns around the man-woman game. The same women who wouldn't even talk to you next door will pay \$900 just to get your phone number here."

Asked if he felt exploited, Leershen laughed. "Yes," he said. "That's why I came."

COLUMN

Pig finds romance

ATHENS, Alabama (AP) — Julia, a 204-kilogram pet pig, has been banished from her downtown Athens home but the veterinarian who raised her says all's well that ends well — Julia has found romance. Veterinarian Bruce Young, who lost a bid in Limestone County circuit court to keep Julia in a pen in his back yard, said his pet will not be lonely in her new home outside city limits. She will be living with a pig named Romeo. Young, 44, found Julia, then eight weeks old, wandering along a road one stormy night in February. A city ordinance bans hog-raising within city limits. Young contended Julia was a pet, not livestock, but lost a court fight. Julia's fans will be able to watch her go out in style in the Athens Christmas parade Thursday. "I just hope Julia won't upstage Santa Claus — she's about the same size," said parade chairwoman Debbie Lessor.

\$10,000 tip

INDIANA (AP) — Waitress Tami Wolf often receives Indiana lottery tickets as tips, but it was never important until a week ago. A customer dropped a ticket into the tip jar at the tavern where she works and Wolf, 27, took a minute and scratched off the ticket to see if she won anything. "Either I'm crazy or I just won \$10,000. Wolf told the people at the bar Nov. 30. "It was instant shock," she said. "People would tell me what they wanted to drink and by the time I walked over to get it I had forgotten what they wanted," she said. "I must have looked at the ticket 500 times. I was ready to sit on the other side of the bar and have a few." The customer who gave her the ticket took it well when Wolf called him over from his pool game to show him the ticket. "His eyes got big and he just smiled and said he was glad I got it," she said.

Cosby leads the pack

RADNOR, Pennsylvania (AP) — Bill Cosby is the most successful entertainer in history and will be number one when people look back on television of the 1980s, in the opinion of the editors at TV Guide magazine. "The Cosby Show" has been at or near the top of the ratings almost since its debut in 1984, according to the magazine's Dec. 9 issue, and the show "has never depended for its ratings or raunchy (off-colour) gags, violence and put-down stereotypes." Besides Cosby, among the most remembered television personalities of the 1980s will be Larry Hagman and Oprah Winfrey, the editors said. Cosby's half-hour comedy show placed first among the top shows of the decade, which included "Dallas" and "Dynasty," police shows "Hill Street Blues" and "Miami Vice," and "Nightline" and "Saturday Night Live." Hagman's J.R. Ewing character made "Dallas" a hit because "he played the smiling cobra with such campy finesse." The show was picked as the second-best of the decade. Crosby's alligator.

COGGON, Iowa (AP) — Your run-of-the-mill lounge lizard will still be roaming bars, but the Coggon City council intends to decide whether an undersized alligator can frequent a tavern. A hearing will be held next month to discuss whether Crosby the Alligator can be the mascot of Crosby's Cove, a tavern recently purchased by Crosby's best friend and feeder, Jim Schebler. Schebler is lobbying the city council to amend the city's dangerous animal ordinance, which prohibits bobcats, polar bears, alligators and other wild critters within the city limits.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	02	28	08-48 Clear
ATHENS	10	50	15-70 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	14	57	70-70 Clear
BANGKOK	18	64	31-88 Clear
Buenos Aires	23	73	31-88 Cloudy
Cairo	12	54	22-72 Clear
CHICAGO	-23	27	-22-36 Snow
COPENHAGEN	-08	18	-41-30 Snow
FRANKFURT	-01	28	02-32 Cloudy
Geneva	00	32	01-34 Cloudy
HONG KONG	16	21	70-70 Clear
ISTANBUL	-01	30	37-57 Snow
LONDON	02	35	37-55 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	10	51	24-75 Clear
MADRID	08	48	12-54 Clear
MECCA	10	54	33-91 Cloudy
MONTREAL	-23	08	-12-10 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	X	X	X X X
NEW YORK	-02	29	27-77 Clear
PARIS	00	32	35-41 Cloudy
ROME	08	48	15-29 Clear
SYDNEY	18	24	77-77 Clear
TOKYO	07	48	15-58 Clear
VIENNA	08	38	39-59 Clear

X-Indicates missing information.